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GIGOLO TEACHER AND WIFE SET UP BROTHEL

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Picture PHIL HOUGHTON

N-ICE TREAT FOR BORIS

As Britain basks in record breaking heat the boars at Wildwood near Canterbury are cooling down with specially prepared lollies. Staff at the woodland attraction have been freezing up buckets of fruit and veg to cool down the hogs. Boris the boar is pictured tucking into the icy treat.

■ BY IAN READ

A PE teacher and his prostitute wife were sentenced yesterday at Canterbury Crown Court after being found guilty of running a brothel in the city.

Timothy Blake-Bowell, 47, who taught at King Ethelbert School in Birchington, will serve a nine-month prison sentence, while his wife Emma Blake-Bowell received a nine-month suspended sentence, a supervision order and a curfew.

She will also be electronically tagged. The couple from Querns Road in Canterbury pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to conspiracy to control the activities of prostitutes for gain.

The Blake-Bowells ran a team of six prostitutes working in the city, based at a one bedroom flat in Gordon Road.

The brothel, known as 'Gem's', 'Pandora's' and 'Men for all Seasons', was exposed when an undercover police officer posing as a client visited the flat for a massage.

Alistair Walker, prosecuting, said when police raided the flat they found sex toys, underwear and massage oils in a bedroom. Two weeks later an undercover officer answered an ad in a local paper and booked a massage.

When he arrived he was offered full sex at £60 for half hour or £100 for an hour.

Mr Walker said: "The address was run as a co-operative. None of the women were coerced and there is no suggestion they were working against their will."

"Having worked for others in the past, Mrs Blake-Bowell was determined to run her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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LONG-STANDING ISSUE: Elderly Herne residents are fed up having to stand and wait for the bus

Pensioners stand up for right to sit down at bus stop

BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

ARTHRITIC pensioners in Herne say they are suffering every time they catch a bus because Canterbury council has not yet provided a place for them to sit down.

Although there is a shelter on one side of the road, where the bus goes to Herne Bay, in the opposite direction to Canterbury they are left standing in the rain.

Frustrated

Herne has a large proportion of elderly people, and Oliver Gosnell, a 72-year-old who has been campaigning for a bus shelter at the Strode Park bus stop for a year, is frustrated by the lack of action.

He said: "It's awful for the poor people staggering up to the bus stop with a walking stick, who have arthritic knees, or who have just had a hip operation.

"They leave early to get to the bus stop in case the bus arrives early, and when they get to it there is nowhere for them to sit. It's so unfair."

According to Mr Gosnell, who goes to an over-60s club in the village, there are lots of older people who think a new bus shelter would be a very good idea.

His wife, who suffers from arthritis, has to lean against a nearby lamp-post to take the weight off her legs.

He said: "It's absolutely scandalous. I don't think it's such a big job to do. With a little bit of thought they could organise something. It isn't such an unreasonable request."

Fellow Herne villager John Phillips is a more philosophical about the issue.

He said: "I think a bus shelter and seat is a jolly good idea. I spoke about this at a parish council meeting some time ago.

"I said it was time we had one on our side of the road because when you are going up to Canterbury you are standing in the wind or the rain."

A spokesman for Canterbury council, said: "We are aware of requests for a bus shelter at Strode Park.

"It is already on our list for consideration. People can be assured we will deal with it in due course."

But Mr Gosnell worries about how long it might still take.

He said: "This doesn't answer the problem. How long will it be, ten, 20 years? It's a completely empty answer."

'Clang of prison doors will have a lasting effect'

FROM FRONT PAGE
enterprise properly."

She was not inside during the raid but arrived shortly afterwards.

Mr Walker said: "She said she'd been a working girl for five years but was fed up with being abused so decided to start a small service on her own."

They had been running the brothel since 2006, providing a base of operations for five British girls working out of the flat.

Mr Blake-Bowell worked as a gigolo and looked after the business side, while his wife introduced girls to clients and organised rotas.

Oliver Saxby, defending Timothy Blake-Bowell, said Emma Blake-Bowell became a prostitute in 2004 after she sampled the local swinging scene with her husband.

He was a respected teacher highly regarded by his employers. While running the brothel in Gordon Road, he was organising activity holidays for pupils at the school.

Horried

He said: "The clang of prison doors will have a lasting effect on him. That talent as a teacher is lost and will be a personal tragedy for him."

"He is horrified by the situation he is in and what he has done."

Rebecca Charles, defending Mrs Blake-Bowell, described her client as vulnerable. The mother of four met her husband while living in a women's refuge.

She had just come out of an abusive relationship with a violent partner, and the couple got into problems after the Inland Revenue asked them to pay back a £5,000 overpayment.

Miss Charles said: "She felt the need to contribute even though she hadn't done that sort of work before. She didn't have the strength of character or ability to leave her husband. She worked two or three times a week, sometimes as receptionist and sometimes as a prostitute."

Judge Adele Williams sentenced Timothy Blake-Bowell as he sobbed in the dock.

She said: "In your case, custody is inevitable. You took a profit from the operation and used your influence to turn your wife into an escort."

Turning to Emma Blake-Bowell, who suffers from clinical depression and an alcohol problem, she said: "If you get help now the cycle of abuse will be stopped. If you appear in front of me again you can have no doubt you will go to prison."

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Is one more food safety officer really enough?

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

A NEW food inspector is to join the council's overworked environmental health team as the council admits the full scale of the inspection backlog.

Provisional figures show that nearly 40 per cent of catering businesses escaped their planned inspections over the last financial year, allowing many restaurants and takeaways to operate unchecked.

This is the same proportion as the year before. And things are not getting easier for the understaffed department.

Workload

A council spokesman said: "More and more new food businesses requiring inspection have opened in the district over the last few years."

"We have a much higher number than other parts of Kent and this has led to a much bigger workload."

Despite the recession there are now 1,626 catering businesses in the district – up from 1,539 in March. Canterbury has 40 per cent more food-orientated firms than the average Kent district.

The number of these has been increasing steadily since 2003.

And to make matters worse the district only has five full-time equivalent food inspectors, as opposed to the 6.6 employed by other boroughs.

Depending on the nature of the enterprise,



BACKLOG: The lack of health inspection staff means some restaurants have missed out on their annual inspection

food companies have to be inspected from every six months to three years.

This has led to serious gaps in the district's inspection programme, and some of the lowest food safety standards in the county.

But the council has decided to employ a new food inspector to help clear the backlog.

If the situation does not improve the Food Standards Agency could take the council to court, or even take over and run the service itself.

Yet statistically speaking, if five people are only getting through 61 per cent of planned

inspections, it's unlikely that one extra inspector will plug the gap, but the council remains confident it can now fulfil its commitments.

A council spokesman said: "The council has an excellent environmental health team that is working flat out to catch up on the backlog."

"The recruitment of a new member of staff will go a long way to helping the council catch up and meet its target."

"All council budgets are stretched due to the current financial situation but we have recognised this is an important issue and are recruiting accordingly."

Pair plead not guilty to corruption charges

A HERNE Bay councillor and a developer have denied corruption charges after appearing in court last week.

Councillor Roger Matthews and developer Julian Brealy appeared were bailed until March 1 2010.

Both were charged after an investigation by Kent Police's serious economic crime unit.

The Liberal Democrats suspended Cllr Matthews, 57, of Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, until after the trial, following the allegations.

The self-employed property manager will still represent Greenhill and Eddington as an independent.

Mr Brealy, 50, of Mandarin Lane, Herne Bay, owns Herne Bay Golf Club.

Grass and gorse fires as heat takes its toll

GRASS fires are rife in Canterbury following a parched week with temperatures reaching 30°C.

Three fire engines had to be deployed when 300 square metres of grassland and gorse were destroyed in a blaze on July 2.

The fire, which was behind Canterbury Golf Club in the Scotland Hills area near Howe Barracks, took two hours to put out. There was a fire in a similar area, near the golf club, the week before when 50sqm of scrub was alight.

There was a second blaze on July 2 in a field near Spring Lane. It took two fire engines an hour to put out the 60sqm metres of grass near the King George V playing field.

A tree trunk was also found burning in Bourne Park Road, Bridge on Saturday.

The fire brigade say grass fires are quite common at this time of year, but urge people to be sensible with fire in the countryside.

Coastguard tracks down rogue jetski

A RUNAWAY jetski was pursued by Whitstable lifeboat after it was spotted speeding out to sea towards the busy Thames Estuary shipping lane.

The sailing barge Greta reported a mysterious, unmanned jetski driving itself along between the windfarm and the Shivering Sand Towers.

The lifeboat was called out just after 2pm on Sunday, July 5, and went to investigate.

Meanwhile, Herne Bay Coastguard found the missing rider safe ashore at Hampton, after another jetski had picked him up when he had fallen off.

But his jetski was still motoring about in the busy Thames Estuary shipping lane.

The Whitstable lifeboat started a search for the missing craft.

Before long a container ship near the Red Sand Towers reported that the vessel was driving itself towards Southend.

Soon after a report came in that it had become entangled in the remains of a World War Two defence boom at Shoeburyness.

The Southend lifeboat was asked to retrieve the jetski while the Whitstable lifeboat returned to port.

Wales' troops to march into city on return home

SOLDIERS from Canterbury are returning home with a parade through the city in desert battle dress with fixed bayonets.

The first battalion of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, the regiment of the South East of England, are returning home from their base in Germany.

More than 200 infantrymen will march from Station Road West to the Dane John gardens for inspection at 10.30am on Saturday, July 18.

This is the first time the battalion has paraded in any of its local towns in eight years because of operational commitments.

The troops will be accompanied by their regimental Kohima Band. The march will be followed by a Drum Head Service.

The Lord Mayor will then present two soldiers with their operational tour medals, which recognise their

tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Private Colin White will receive his Operation Herrick medal for service in Afghanistan.

Private Daniel Hudson will receive his Operation Telic medal for his tour of duty in Iraq. Both are 19 and have been with the regiment for two years.

Soldiers from the first battalion of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment were the last to serve in Basra. They returned at the end of May after mentoring the 14th Division of the Iraqi Army.

The battalion is the most decorated infantry unit in the British Army after their three tours of Iraq.

The battalion's Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry was the first living recipient of the Victoria Cross in 40 years for his exceptional bravery when his convoy was attacked in Iraq in 2004.

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yourcanterbury

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police join with DVLA to remove untaxed cars

THE police have been clearing the district's streets of cars with no road tax.

Almost 50 cars and vans have been removed from the city and the surrounding area in the last two weeks.

The police worked with the city council and DVLA to trace and pick up the vehicles.

Police have also been doing roadside checks in the Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable areas to promote road safety and stop fly-tipping

Parking penalty waived after newspaper steps in

A PARKING enforcement firm has waived a fine following a story by Yourcanterbury.

Mrs Phyllida Edwards approached Yourcanterbury after Parking Eye, who police the Aldi car park in Canterbury, fined her £70 for a parking offence she insists she did not commit.

Mrs Edwards said: "Without the newspaper interceding for me I don't know what would have come of it. I may have ended up being fined hundreds of pounds."

£500,000 award makes cycle paths go further

KENT'S new extended cycle route network is making excellent progress, according to the council.

New cycle paths have been built through Reculver Country Park and around Bishopstone Glen in Beltinge, as part of the Oyster Bay Trail.

This route will link Reculver and Whitstable, and connect with the Viking Coastal Trail around Thanet and the Crab and Winkle Way to Canterbury.

The paths have been built following a £500,000 award from Sustrans.

Recycle your old books and pick up a new read

AN environmental charity is hosting two books swaps in Whitstable.

The first swap is at the Duke of Cumberland at 8pm on Monday, July 13. The second is for children's books and runs from 10-11am at the Whistlestop Restaurant on Tuesday, July 21.

Transition Town Whitstable organised the free events.

Martin's battle an inspiration to pupils

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

AT 17, Martin Hopley was told by doctors he only had 10 months to live following a series of unsuccessful operations to treat a large brain tumour.

But following a miraculous, scientifically-unexplained remission Martin, now aged 30, has devoted his life to inspiring others to make the most of the time they've got.

Last week he visited Barton Court Grammar School to tell his story and extol the virtues of thinking positively.

The talk had a profound effect on students.

Christine, 17, a Barton Court student, said: "I thought the talk was inspirational. I want to get out there now and do something with my life."

Martin's story started when he was 14, and he began to get severe headaches and nausea.

One day he passed out and woke up in the John Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. He was told he had a tumour which was preventing fluid from leaving his brain.

The schoolboy had a valve inserted in his head which cleared the fluid, but this was repeatedly rejected, so he had to have multiple operations to replace it.

He sat one of his GCSE exams just 48 hours after one such procedure, with stitches still in his head.

Then at 16 he was told he had to have surgery to remove the tumour, facing a one-in-three chance of becoming severely disabled, or not waking up at all.

The surgery and subsequent radiotherapy left him with severe double vision, impaired hearing in his left ear and short-term memory loss. He also had to re-learn to walk.

Then he was told the operation had not worked, and he only had 10 months to live.

Martin said: "At 17 my family, my friends, everything I wanted to be, was stolen from me. I became the loneliest person in the world and quite frankly it broke me."

But when everything seemed as bad as it could be, he did not give up.

He said: "If conventional medicine couldn't help me I would try unconventional medicine."

"I thought, what's the worst that could happen? I would die? Oh well, I was going to die anyway." He called a herbalist who told him to stop eating rubbish, become a vegan, and start



THINK POSITIVE: Pupils at Barton Court school listen as Martin Hopley encourages them to live life to the full

being happy. Despite the odds, the tumour shrank. One day it could grow again and kill him, but for now he is doing well.

The talk was part of a day organised by the school to help students make choices about their lives after school. Mr Hopley spoke to two sixth-form groups, but had also presented the same talk to a group of 14 to 15-year olds earlier in the year.

Remarkably, Mr Hopley does the talks to give something back.

He said: "I'm living on benefits. I feel it is better doing something useful for society than sitting on my backside living off the state. And I think the kids get something from it too."

"Nothing has changed. I'm still going to die. But by getting over the fact that I'm not immortal, I have been able to get on with my life and do something amazing with it."

"Barton Court are rather unique and think in very different ways to many schools. It's not easy and some people think it's a risk to invite someone to talk to their pupils about death. Barton Court's vision is a credit to their high standards."

Mr Hopley now enjoys travelling around Japan, and has learned Japanese. He is also a published author, currently writing a novel.



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THEY'RE OFF: Graeme Tyndall and Mike Wilson get a send-off from pupils at the King's School, Canterbury

Teachers spend summer driving Ka to Mongolia

AN EPIC journey to Outer Mongolia launches next week as two Canterbury school teachers set off to cover 10,000 miles in a Ford Ka.

Graeme Tyndall, 27, and Mike Wilson, 24, will drive across 16 countries, three mountain ranges and two deserts in the black 1.2 litre runaround, decorated with pink polka dots, as part of the increasingly popular Mongol Rally.

The teachers are confident they will complete the charity challenge, in aid of Children and Young People's Protection and Development.

Mr Wilson said: "We do foresee problems: our friendship; our inability to speak or read Russian; our lack of mechanical knowledge; our complete lack of geographical sense; getting back in time for school. Other than that, it should be plane sailing."

The pair, who teach at the King's School, Canterbury, will set off from Goodwood, near Chichester, on Saturday, July 18.

Their route passes through Prague, Budapest and Tehran before ending up in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia.

Mr Wilson said: "We decided to do it through a mixture of madness and boredom, I think."

"We've always wanted to see Iran from the inside of a Ford Ka, tracing the silk road in the footsteps of Genghis Ka..."

The charity they are raising money for is Children and Young People's Protection and Development, which protects the rights of vulnerable children.

The charity also supports children's education, training and development. It is running a project to improve the lives of children working in Ulaanbaatar's markets, who are often exposed to sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The pair hope to complete the expedition in five weeks. After this they will give their car away to the charity and take the trans-Siberian railway back to Moscow.

They want to raise £3,000 for their cause and have so far raised nearly £900.

Mike Wilson, who achieved a starred first in theology from Cambridge before teaching, said: "The children's charity caught our eye, both because it works with young people, as we do, and because the results of the money raised will be seen clearly in the building of a new strategic centre in Ulaanbaatar."

"We are also hoping to initiate some lasting links between King's and the charity, with the possibility of taking some students to Mongolia."

To sponsor the teachers, visit www.mongolings.com

Police plea after bus garage raid

POLICE have released CCTV footage of a man they want to talk to in connection with a burglary in Herne Bay.

The bus garage in the High Street was broken in to on Sunday, February 8. Clothing, staff bags and a machine for issuing tickets were stolen.

Anyone with information should call PC Carl McGee on 01227 868283.



yourcanterbury NEWS IN BRIEF

Hegehog family expands

THERE has been some good news for an endangered British animal – a hedgehog mother has given birth to four hoglets at Wildwood Discovery Park.

When they were born, the baby hogs, were spineless and hairless. Now, after five weeks, they are smaller versions of their parents.

Hedgehogs are on a list of 18 British mammals at threat in the countryside. Nine are at Wildwood – the hedgehog, water vole, wildcat, otter, pine marten, harvest mouse, dormouse, polecat and red squirrel.

Members of the public can visit the park, which is just off the A291 between Herne Bay and Canterbury.



Boy, 17 on assault charge

A TEENAGER has been charged with assaulting three men after a fight in Whitstable last Friday.

The 17-year-old from Birchington was charged after police were called to the fracas in Tower Parade at 10.20pm on June 26.

The men he is charged with assaulting were all 19 and are from Whitstable, Hernhill and Canterbury.

Two 20-year-old men from Whitstable were also arrested in connection with the affray, which was near the Harbour Garage, and have been released on bail.

The teenager appeared in court on Monday, June 29 when the case was adjourned and he was also bailed.

Police urge any witnesses of the scuffle to contact PC Dave O'Brien on 01227 868266

Road closed after crash

A TRACTOR collided with a car last week on a narrow road near Bekesbourne – miraculously no-one was seriously injured.

The crash between the tractor and the Peugeot meant the road had to be closed, causing delays to school buses.

The smash happened at 2.40pm on Wednesday, June 1 on Bifrons Hill.

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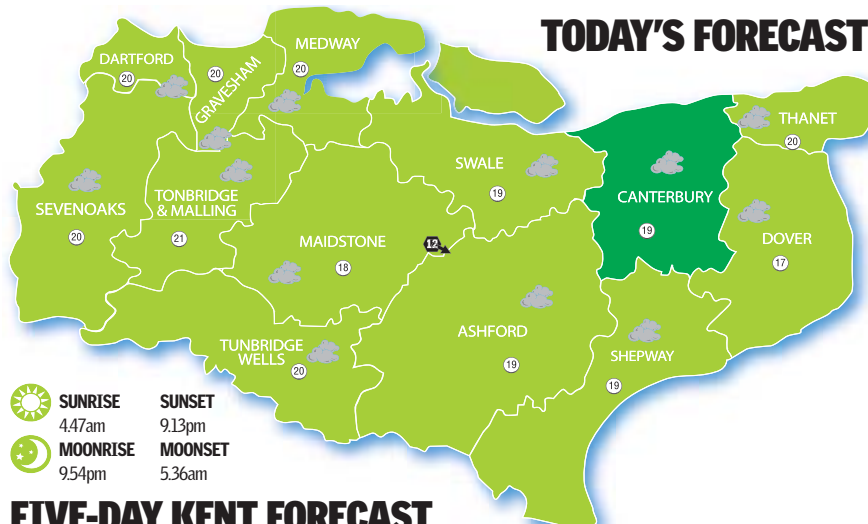
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MOONRISE 9:54pm
SUNSET 9:13pm
MOONSET 5:36am

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	19°C	20°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	Gravesend	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Canterbury	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Maidstone	19°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Chatham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Ramsgate	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Dartford	20°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Rochester	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Dover	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Sevenoaks	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Faversham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C
Folkestone	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Tonbridge	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Gillingham	19°C	20°C	19°C	18°C	20°C	Tun Wells	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:00pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:32pm	5.7m
Dover	Saturday	2:23pm	6.4m
	Sunday	2:54pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:13pm	7.3m
	Sunday	2:45pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:53pm	4.8m
	Sunday	3:24pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:50pm	5.5m
	Sunday	4:22pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:46pm	5.1m
	Sunday	4:16pm	5.0m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	26°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	28°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	27°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	24°C
Gibraltar	27°C	Vancouver	21°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	24°C
Las Palmas	27°C	Wellington	9°C

yourcanterbury NEWS IN BRIEF

Reserve time to have some fun at Blean Village fete

BLEAN is holding an action-packed village fete to celebrate the opening of nearby Keir's Nature Reserve.

There will be sumo wrestling, bungee trampolines, a bouncy castle, face-painting, a dog-show, a jazz band, a barbecue and a beer tent.

Keir's Meadow Nature Reserve was funded through the BBC's Breathing Spaces Project.

The fete has been organised by Blean Pre-School for the second year running, and the money raised will go towards the institution for two to four-year-olds.

The fete is on Saturday, July 11 at 12noon at Blean Memorial Field, School Lane, Blean.

Competition could give your special mum a treat

WONDERFUL mothers who make a difference to their families or communities can get the recognition they deserve thanks to a new competition.

Sam Skull, founder of www.motivatedmums.co.uk, wants nominations for the competition where mums can win complementary therapy treatment, pedicure, haircut and goody-bag.

Ms Skull said she started the competition to reward exceptional mothers and to "give them their sparkle back".

For more information go to the website or email motivatedmums@yahoo.com with details of why your nominee should deserve to win.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

JOEL HOPKINS



Q How has the film gone down in the US?

A Great, really well. Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson, the lead actor and actress, got nominated for golden globe awards and people seem to have really warmed to their performances which I think are absolutely brilliant. They've done a really good job.

Q What inspired this film?

A These things always come about in very unromantic ways, in very practical ways often. I went up for a job to direct Nanny McPhee which was a children's film. I didn't get the job, but I got a meeting with Emma because she saw my first film Jump Tomorrow and really liked it.

She said she would love us to work together. I thought that sort of thing doesn't happen every day; I should really do something with that. So I literally sat down and thought okay, Emma Thompson really likes my film, I'm going to write a part for her, and that was really the beginning of it.

When I sat down and wrote the first draft I had seen Emma in a film called Stranger Than Fiction with Dustin in it and they had a couple of small scenes together and they were very nice together. I knew Emma would know Dustin from working together so I thought maybe she could get the script to him. When I sat down and wrote the first draft it was really with those two in mind.

The fairy-tale bit is that Emma really responded to the script and then sent it on to Dustin and he responded.

This is a story about two people who bump into each other and unwittingly start peeling back the layers. They are two people who have built up quite a lot of pretences over the years. They unlock things in each other and have a second chance at love I guess, or a last chance at love. It's a really nice movie.

Q Do you think Canterbury has influenced your new film?

A Yes, I think it's all in there somewhere. I went to Canterbury Christ Church College as an undergraduate. I was a London boy and it was great to get out of London, and I really had a fantastic three years.

I found it a very uncompetitive environment. There was a very eclectic mix of people. At that stage in my life it was just what I needed. It wasn't competitive, it wasn't super-cool; it was quite a gentle atmosphere to try things. I did radio, film and television there and they had quite a good art programme so I did art and design.

I lived three years always in the city walls. I ended up in a really nice Tudor house.

I managed to get one of the top floor rooms, so I had exposed beams and a pitched roof. It was really quite fairytale-like. I liked the sense that you could smell the salt and you were aware of the sea not being too far away, which I liked. I have really very fond memories of it.

Q When you were in Canterbury did you expect the level of success you have now?

A This is my second film and my first film did quite well. No-one saw it but I won a BAFTA for it for as promising newcomer. That happened quite quickly after film school, but it has taken me six years from that film 'Jump Tomorrow' to make this second film, so I've had my share of pulling my hair out, trying to get things made.

I'm still not quite convinced I've made it yet. I think I need to make three films and then nobody can take it away from me, I will feel like a filmmaker. I've finished the film and I'm really proud of it but I'm back to square one, clearly I need a job. I need to get another script going and I need to get another film.

Q Do you have any words of wisdom for aspiring Canterbury filmmakers?

A I think always good stuff comes from all experiences. For instance the Emma Thompson connection came from not getting a job. I was chasing a job, I didn't get it, but she saw my film, she took the meeting, and something, eventually, good came from it. Something always comes from these things. You're always building stuff up and even if it's not exactly what you were after, it's always worth taking a meeting and it's always worth pursuing things, even if you don't get it you always meet someone or it always leads to something. There are no wrong turns in a way. One door closes and another door opens.

Q & A

Reporter **Jenny Armstrong** talks to Joel Hopkins, writer and director of film Last Chance Harvey, who studied film at Canterbury, about how a meeting with Emma Thompson inspired him to write the script

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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yourkenttv.co.uk

Star's art shoots through museum

BY JENNA PUDELEK

STUFFED animals flying out of a Victorian contraption and a Siamese serpent are among the exhibits in a surreal show by comedian Vic Reeves.

In The Natural History of Kent and Sussex Through My Binoculars, which opened yesterday at the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery, the purveyor of the bizarre is leaving the meaning of it all up to viewers.

Reeves, who lives in Charing, near Ashford, with his wife Nancy Sorrell and their twins, has created six new paintings for the show that he has combined with objects and artefacts from the museum's collection.

Asked whether the pictures were produced in response to what he found when rifling through the museum's wide-ranging archives, he said: "It was a bit of both, after I did the pictures I picked some other things as well."

"I'm putting up shelves under each painting and there will be objects that will link directly or indirectly with the painting."

"People can make their own links. People spend a lot of time wanting to be told what to think about something. I'm assuming people will want to know what it is all about, but my lips are keeping firmly shut."

The 50 year old is probably most famous for Shooting Stars, the BBC TV comedy quiz show

he presented along with Bob Mortimer in the 1990s and which is due to make a comeback this August.

But the keen birdwatcher and prolific artist – he is publishing a book filled with 260 of his illustrations later this year – has exhibited his paintings and drawings at several commercial galleries.

Reeves, who said his artistic life has worked alongside his comedy throughout his career, described some of the objects he chose.

"I suppose I'm fond of stuffed animals and birds, as well as the live ones," he said. "All that Victoriana, they would stuff anything they saw... I've always been interested in insects in museums since I was young. That was the first thing I looked for."

Transformation

As he spoke to KOS Media this week Reeves was busy setting up the show. He said: "They (the stuffed animals) are all flying out of a Victorian bath chair."

"They hit the ground and turn into humming birds that spread out coming together. I was working out how it would fit together nine months ago and now I'm putting it all into place."

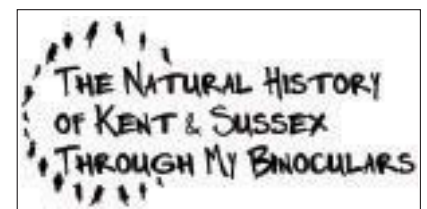
Asked what kind of reaction he wanted, he said: "Probably tearing people away from the obvious. It'll be interesting to see."

Reeves remained tight-lipped about his pictures and what they might mean.

Quizzed over the use of stormy clouds and threatening skies, he said: "I got some new acrylic sprays and I was messing about with it



BE INSPIRED: Comedian Vic Reeves wants visitors to his exhibition to make their own minds up about his work



and I and thought it made nice clouds and I've got a bit of a thing about clouds. One of the great things about art is that you can see whatever you want to see and think whatever you want about it."

One painting shows a serpent joined in the middle with two heads with two sets of human eyes and lips. The work was inspired by an object in the museum's collection.

He said: "It [the show] is quite random, there is nothing particularly that ties it, but I suppose the general theme could be ways of looking at things."

Reeves came straight to the museum after filming Shooting Stars and said it was not that big a leap in the type of material he was dealing with.

Is he hoping to attract a different and perhaps younger audience to the museum? He added: "I don't know who'll see it, museum goers, tourists..."

"There was a lady outside this morning who said, 'can I bring my kids or is it adult themed' and I said there is nothing particularly adult or dodgy."

The show will run until August 29.

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Page 77



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Flavour of summer is right on your doorstep

WITH the arrival of summer sunshine, I am eating more salads, and am thrilled that the British tomato season is upon us.

Although tomatoes are available throughout the year, it is only in recent weeks that local varieties have ripened and there really is no comparison between the flavourless tomatoes available during winter and the sweet, tangy and delicious British varieties.

If you're a gardener your tomato plants should be doing well and you'll soon see the first signs of flowers or fruit. If not, you need to track down some local Kentish tomatoes.

Those provided by www.foodforkent.co.uk are grown by Brian and Lorraine Watts, who run the Leonard Ironside nursery at Farthing Common, Lynging, which I visited last month.

Brian has been growing tomatoes since 1974, and it was fascinating to find out what is involved.

His nursery comprises four, one-acre glasshouses, containing about 35,000 tomato plants. Brian currently grows 10 different varieties, ranging from traditional vine and plum to cherry and beef tomatoes. The tomato seedlings are planted in November in what looks like giant grow bags filled with coir, which is shredded coconut husk – a much more environmentally-sound choice than traditional peat.

In the first part of a regular series of articles, healthy eating expert ABBY DYSON – who writes about cooking, seasonal, healthy food at www.eattherightstuff.com – discusses her recent visit to the county to experience the delights of Kentish tomatoes.



Brian explained how the environment in the glasshouses is carefully monitored to create optimum growing conditions.

The temperature is varied depending on how bright a day it is – on sunny days the plants grow fast and need extra warmth, whereas on an overcast day less heat is required as they are growing more slowly.

Just as important is keeping the glasshouses well ventilated, so that disease, which flourishes in warm damp environments, is kept at bay and condensation doesn't form which might cause blemishes on the tomatoes. Carbon dioxide, a by-product of

the heating system, is pumped into the glasshouses to encourage better growth.

One of the most interesting things about visiting the nursery was learning about the bugs and bees which Brian deploys to help him grow the tomatoes.

Each glasshouse contains a number of bee hives housing bumble bees that pollinate the tomatoes.

This is a far cry from the techniques used in yesteryear, which saw farmers use a vibrating metal rod to "tickle" each flower so that the pollen was dislodged.

The bees are introduced when the first

flowers appear – usually just after Christmas – and continue their work until the end of the growing season in the autumn.

Brian also uses predator insects. The plants are regularly inspected by white-coated scientists and any sign of pests is noted. Predator insects are then introduced which target and eliminate these pests.

It's a wonderful example of working with Mother Nature and as a result of this approach Brian's tomatoes are grown without the use of pesticides, fungicides or insecticides.

Each glasshouse contains 500 rows of tomatoes and from March, when the plants start producing fruit – it takes eight weeks from pollination to a tomato being ready to pick – each row is picked every other day, six days a week.

The tomatoes are put straight into the boxes in which they are sold so that they are handled as little as possible.

Unusually, they are not put into cold storage but go straight to the people who are buying them so that the time between picking and selling is kept short.

The result is flavoursome Kentish tomatoes which are well worth tracking down.



Abby's double tomato and courgette pasta

(Serves 2)

Pasta for two – penne works well

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 large clove garlic, crushed

2 courgettes, cut into discs

1 tablespoon of sun-dried tomatoes, softened in boiling water and cut into thin strips

Juice of half a lemon

15-20 cherry tomatoes, halved

A handful of basil leaves, shredded

1 tablespoon of toasted pine nuts

Parmesan cheese, to serve

Put the pasta on to cook.

Fry the garlic in olive oil and when you start to smell it, add the courgette.

Turn the heat up and cook, stirring regularly, until the courgette begins to soften. Keep the heat high and add the sun-dried tomatoes and lemon juice and cook for a more few minutes.

When the courgette is sufficiently cooked add the cherry tomatoes, basil and pine nuts.

Remove from the heat, mix with the pasta and serve with parmesan shavings.

For more examples of seasonal recipes visit Abby's healthy eating food blog www.eattherightstuff.com

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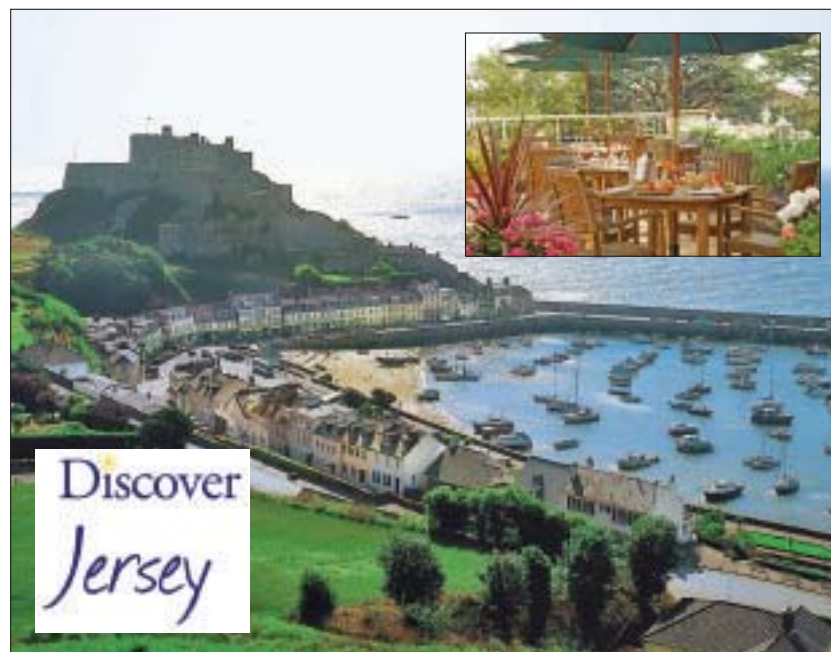
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yourcanterburyblogger

Editor of our sister paper Kent on Saturday, Chris Britcher, on how commuters may lose out on the high-speed trains



Fast track to the office means less free time to spend on you

I SPENT many years commuting on our rail network. And somewhere in my brain lurks a department which can still reel off the full stopping service between my home station and the London terminals.

The list of stations seeped into my brain subconsciously as I stood on platforms waiting for trains home. There are still places in Kent I have never been to but know they exist purely by the fact they have a station on a main line. Places like Martin Mill, Dumpton Park and Westenhangar. I have images of what they are like, a mystique I know would probably be shattered were I to ever set eyes on them. Quite frankly, my brain isn't big enough to be carrying around that sort of information.

At first I despised the daily two-hour slog to London and then repeating the slow, dirty process home again. Given it just involved me sitting on a cushioned seat, it was crippling tiring. And mind-numbingly boring.

I resented every sweaty lump who sat next to me. I could happily have stabbed to death those who sprawled themselves over two seats and refused to budge when I came down the carriage in desperate need of a spot to park myself for the duration. Over the top, maybe. But after a long day, selfish seat nabbing is without question punishable by death.

But over the years, my hate relationship with these 'lost' four hours changed.

In the mornings, I would nab my window seat, plug in my CD player (this was the pre-iPod era) and look forward to an extra hour and a half's sleep. Sure it meant I'd wake up somewhere outside Bromley, dribbling on to the shoulder of the poor sap next to me, but at least I got a little shut eye.

Then on the way home in would go the earphones and out would come a book. I used the time to read classics I'd never read before. Books I had failed miserably at school to concentrate on; I probably read more during those journeys than I have before or since.

Suddenly, the hated two hours turned into a

precious pair. This was my time. I'd turn my phone off and just enjoy good music, good literature or simply the view.

Granted, the trains were always the old rubbish slam door trains. And on the rare occasion when I would end up standing in the old post carriages, they were truly miserable hours. But if I'd got a seat and avoided anyone with children then it could have been worse.

So what? I hear you cry. Well I say this because for those commuters happy to shell out a few bob, that time has now been reduced. Because this is a new era of super-fast high-speed trains. Of 37-minute journeys from Ashford to London. And that's quite incredible.

And as good as it must be to shave such a gigantic slice of travelling time, I would wager there will at least be a few like me who may rue that precious time. Because we all know what will happen. That time saved will be spent in the office and not at home. And a bit of valuable leisure time will be gone.

So don't worry if you can't afford to upgrade. Just remember that time is on your side.

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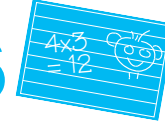
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Pupils work for Kenya trip



OUT OF AFRICA: Students at Chaucer Technology School are already raising funds to go to Kenya in 2010

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

STUDENTS from Chaucer Technology School will have the experience of a lifetime when they volunteer in Kenya next summer.

Thirty-two students from the Canterbury college will help build schools, work with elephants and scuba dive to help with marine conservation.

They are going to Muhaka to contribute to community and wildlife projects. They will also be learning Swahili, making environmentally friendly paper out of elephant dung and learning crafts from locals.

Tanya Roots, who teaches at the school, said: "The expedition will provide them with extraordinary opportunities."

"It's a once in a lifetime chance giving them unique opportunities to integrate with different cultures and languages."

The students each have to obtain over £3,000 through fundraising to go on the trip, which is being organised through Camps International.

They have nearly a year to raise the money before they fly out for four weeks in the 2010 summer holiday. They also have the opportunity to go on safari in their free time.

The school pupils are all in Years 10, 11 and 12, which means they will be between 16 and 18 when they go on the expedition.

Nick Baker, 16, said: "Going to Kenya will be a life-changing experience."



REALLY WILD: Pupils will be working with elephants

"I'm most looking forward to building schools. It will be for kids my age: 14-16-year-olds and onwards."

The students are going to raise money partly by organising events in school, such as an event called 'Chaucer's Got Talent' and a Halloween disco for the younger years.

They also intend to work hard on fundraising events like car-washing, bag-packing in supermarkets, sponsored silences, walks and bike rides, boot fairs and cake sales.

Natalie, 15, said: "I'm looking forward to meeting people with different cultures and seeing how they live."

To help the pupils with their fundraising contact Tanya Roots on 01227 763636 or email troots@chaucer.ac.uk

BREAK TIME

Centre's cash boost

ST ANSELM'S School has been awarded £15,000 to refurbish its discovery centre.

The Canterbury school's discovery centre is currently a resource hub, housing computers with internet access as well as books.

The grant from the Extended Schools team means pupils will be able to use the space for many different projects.

The cinema, digital photography and yoga clubs will be able to use the centre in school time and it will also be used for other activities out of school time.

The new design was devised by St Anselm's students, who also decided what the space will be used for once refurbishments have finished.

Mrs Moriarty, the discovery centre manager, said "This is great news."

"The discovery centre is very popular already and we expect many more students will benefit from the planned changes, which is all thanks to the discovery centre members' group."

Asian nursing link

CHRIST Church University has formed a partnership to help improve nursing skills in Malaysia.

The Canterbury university has signed an agreement with the International College of Health Sciences in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to provide a part-time degree to their nursing students.

This will be an extra qualification for the nurses, who are currently educated to diploma level. The programme will begin in 2010.

Staff from the Christ Church nursing, health and social care faculties will begin teaching the course, which will run in Malaysia.

Local staff will also be trained to take over teaching in the future.

Dean of the Health and Social Care Faculty Hazel Colyer said: "This international partnership is a first for us and we hope it's the beginning of a long relationship. We're delighted to have the chance to share our knowledge and skills."



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TALK TIME

SAMANTHA DAVIDSON

Sergeant Samantha Davidson, a dental hygienist with the Royal Army Dentist Corps, is one of 151 British Army medics on exercise in Kenya



What are your impressions of Kenya?

I have been amazed at how resilient people are here, and their ability to smile, especially children who have had to have four teeth taken out at times. People have come back to thank us, once the numbness had worn off, for taking out teeth that had been hurting them for years. You would never be thanked for taking out people's teeth in the UK.

What do you do on an average day?

I work in different villages with a dentist and a dental support specialist, this means seeing on average 35 patients a day, and a significant number of tooth extractions. The temporary dental clinics we set up every other day in a new location is often the only chance villagers have of dental care in their lifetime.

What are challenges of working in that environment?

As a hygienist and bit of cross infection control freak I am finding the dirt and being dirty difficult, but I am 100 per cent enjoying it and am so glad to be here. There is so much to take away from this experience professionally, emotionally and militarily. We take so much for granted – even owning a tooth brush. I can't thank the British Health Foundation for their supplies, and Oral B enough for the 500 toothbrushes they gave to me to be able to distribute at schools where children are otherwise using sticks.

YOUR LETTERS

Beatles' photos cast picture of doubt

I for one am not convinced those Beatles shots featured in last week's paper "are never before seen". I think the writer was correct to cast doubt on the claims made by the shopkeepers, as I'm sure I've seen the pictures on the internet.

Although they are not common, I don't think they have never before been in the public domain. And as for unheard recordings, that is pure fabrication.

Gerald Mount Blean

Sugababe concert a bitter experience

Your article last week on the Sugababes' concert did not go into enough detail about how truly awful their performance was. It goes on about the damage done to the cricket club, but what about the poor saps who bought tickets expecting to see a professional show?

Instead we were treated to a rotten display of mistakes and unprofessionalism.

The inane twitter comments were the icing on the cake.

Shirley Tremlow Canterbury

Nothing sweet about performance

It's a shame to hear Kent Cricket



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Club might lose money following the shambolic performance by the Sugababes, but as a ticket holder, what disgusted me even more were the comments taken from Twitter, reproduced at the end of the story.

How dare they laugh about the catalogue of mistakes they made when fans are paying good money to see them?

It shows a total disregard for fans and a complete lack of professionalism. I am not a serious

fan, I just went along because it was happening, and the price seemed reasonable.

But I can safely say I will never attend another performance by the massively overrated group.

Sandra Jameson Canterbury



Could Canterbury be homophobic?

I will follow the story of Canterbury's only gay bar with interest if they do indeed apply for an extension to what admittedly seem like very restrictive hours.

I wonder if there really is an element of homophobia in the city which, as I read it, is strongly hinted at in the article?

Simon Aldridge Canterbury

Drawing on morals over prison art

It's appalling that someone is auctioning Michael Stone's artwork online. I know there is a lot of controversy surrounding his case, and the fact that the validity of his prosecution has been questioned many times. But that



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aside, I cannot condone the macabre taste that prompts the production of this so-called art in the first place.

It is sick that a market even exists for this sort of thing, although it is a well known fact that it does. Some of America's most notorious serial killers sold artwork from prison, sometimes for substantial profit. And that moustachioed 'chopper' thug has become a full-on celebrity. Criminals, especially of that depraved nature, should not be allowed to profit from their crimes in any way.

Simon Charles
Whitstable

BBC sport priorities have turned to Ashes

It seems to have been ages coming along but at last the Ashes will soon be here.

After weeks – it seems like years – of having to put up with the tedious antics of the prima donnas of Wimbledon there is real sport about to come to everyone's attention.

Hang on though – it won't will it? While the BBC spends millions on its coverage of Wimbledon and that other non-sport Formula One only those with Sky will be able to see one of the top sporting rivalries in the world go head-to-head for a gripping two months or so.

The England v Australia test match series is one of the jewels in the crown of world sport and last time it was on in this country it gripped the nation.

That's not going to happen this time around whatever the result and however exciting the games are.

Surely there could have been the opportunity for at least a couple of the test matches to be shown to terrestrial viewers.

It is not fair that we have to suffer loads of very boring sports and not get to see any minutes of one that has been part of this nation's sporting history for more than a century.

The BBC has not got its priorities anywhere near right.

Anthony Lockwood
By email

Sunny attitudes or just hot and bothered

It is certainly noticeable how people's general attitude changes during hot weather.

When people are not working everything is more relaxed, drinkers spill out onto pavements, parks and beaches are packed and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves.

But when it comes to those working there seems to be a short tempered attitude among staff everywhere.

No one wants to be serving in a shop or working in an office.

Everyone just wants to go home and get outside.

So hot weather is great if you are free to enjoy it. But if you are shut away indoors it is just annoying.

Jessica Bradshaw
By email

Why is everyone wacko over Jacko?

Is it just me or has everyone gone over the top about Michael Jackson?

OK he made a few good albums and the songs were alright and the videos clever. But he certainly was no saint, and that is even before you start looking into allegations over his private life.

It seems when anyone dies now a sort of Princess Di factor comes into play. Everyone uses it as an occasion for relentless outpourings of grief.

It certainly is tragic for his family and I am sure his fans will miss the opportunity to watch his shows.

But as a general cause for upset and tears – no I don't think so.

James Heath
By email

Fielding support for the scarecrow

I have to disagree with last week's letter saying the 'Scarecrow' was a ridiculous idea.

Everyone I spoke to thought it was great (if indeed it is to resemble the picture in the original article) and much more of a character than the bland, uninteresting white horse for Ebbsfleet, which isn't even the Kentish Invicta horse. Talk about wasting money!

D.Collins
By email

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- As a charity, we rely solely on public donations so would ask you to raise as much sponsorship as possible.

To enter online for the run: www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildrun and for the bike ride: www.runnersworld.co.uk/wildbike

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Get set to rock farm

Hip hop's head honcho Roots Manuva joins Edwyn Collins on star-studded line-up at award-winning festival

LOUNGE ON THE FARMFriday, July 10 to Sunday, July 12
Merton Farm, near Canterbury

FROM hip hop to indie, Lounge on the Farm presents a diverse range of music treats this year.

Boasting headline acts such as Edwyn Collins and The Horrors, the three-day festival offers new and established acts from a variety of genres.

The Saturday night headliner has been announced as seminal UK performer Roots Manuva.

Following the example of Glastonbury boss Michael Eavis, who added US superstar Jay-Z to the bill last year, LOTF organiser Matt Gough has decided to bring the "head honcho of UK hip hop" to Kent.

The music starts on Friday when Hobo Jones and The JD, A Hawk & A Hacksaw, Toddla T, Los Salvadores, The King Blues and Gong are just some of the great acts taking to the stage before headline act The Horrors brings the day to a close.

Saturday's entertainment includes performances by Krafty Kuts, The Temper Trap, Portico Quartet and The Aliens, alongside nearly 30 other acts.

Sunday's final line-up includes Underground Heroes, Krissy & The Jackdaws, the James Taylor Quartet, Son of Dave, Dan Le Sac v Pip, Mr Scruff, Billy Childish & The MBE and a finale from Edwyn Collins.

Upcoming Kent bands will have the chance to perform after being voted into the line-up by fans and the lucky winners include Elephants, Billy Wears Dresses, The Sketch, Ghost In Mirrors, Twilight Green and The Dukes.

The festival has received much acclaim for its support of local food and drink producers, so there will be plenty of gastronomic delights.

Lounge on the Farm's accolades include The Telegraph's recommendations for top family festivals, while last year's event was among the Times' Top 10 Boutique Festivals, the Observer's Top 20 Festivals You've Never Heard Of and the Guardian's

**STAR TURNS:** Saturday headliner Roots Manuva, and right, Edwyn Collins, who brings the festival to a close on Sunday

Best Family Festivals. Organisers also earned a Greener Festival Award for their commitment to environmentally-friendly working practices.

Despite the recession, early bird tickets sold out in record time this year. Full weekend tickets cost £85 for adults, £45 for children and £180 for families of two adults and two children. Children aged five and under are admitted for free. For full festival listings and to book tickets visit the website at www.loungeon-thefarm.co.uk. **FOR MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT VISIT** yourkenttv.co.uk

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JANE WEBSTER

Sunday, July 12
Dominican Priory, Canterbury



THE Friends of the Marlowe Theatre continue to present top quality shows, even while the theatre is closed for redevelopment.

Mezzo-soprano Jane Webster gave the last concert for the Friends in the theatre's Café Bar and now she returns to delight the audience in another venue. Accompanied by pianist Nicholas Bosworth, she will perform a concert of well-loved tunes from opera, operetta and the West End, in her own individual style.

Webster performs with much glamour and panache, which means tickets for her concerts are always in demand. Together they will present a programme that will feature something for everyone, including works by Gershwin, Strauss, Hammerstein, Sondheim, Bernstein, Puccini and many more.

Webster recently appeared at the London Palladium as the Mother Abbess in some performances of The Sound of Music. Bosworth is a pianist in high demand, was senior coach for Carmen at Glyndebourne last autumn and has been busy recording.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12.50 including a glass of wine, concessions available. To book call the Marlowe Theatre box office on 01227 787787.



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Tuesday, July 14 to Sunday, July 19
St Augustine's Abbey



MISTAKEN identities lead to some wild mishaps in Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors.

World-renowned theatre company, Shakespeare's Globe, will perform a stripped-down version of the Bard's comedy in the beautiful setting of St Augustine's Abbey next week. The Globe's age-old tradition of touring was revived in 2007 and the company is continuing to bring thrilling outdoor productions to venues across the country.

Two sets of identical twins are separated at birth and later find themselves living in the same city, which has a reputation for sorcery. The misunderstandings that ensue lead to wrongful beatings, misguided romance and accusations of theft, infidelity and madness.

The company will return to St Augustine's Abbey in August to perform another comedy of errors, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

To book, call the Marlowe Theatre box office on 01227 787787, visit the Canterbury Visitor Information Centre or book online at www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk. There is no seating provided, so audiences will need to bring their own chairs or rugs.



OPEN MIC JAZZ SINGER'S NIGHT

Monday, July 13
Gulbenkian Cafe Bar, Canterbury



ASPIRING singers are invited to take part in the final Open Mic Jazz Singer's Night at the Gulbenkian.

Vocalists have the chance to sing alongside jazz pianist Frances Knight and a jazz bass player in a supportive and friendly atmosphere. Along with their favourite jazz classics, singers are also welcome to perform blues, soul or gospel songs.

There is much to offer listeners too, who can enjoy an evening of live cabaret entertainment from talented local singers. The singers list will be taken from 7.30pm and the two sets of singing will start at 8pm, with one song per performer guaranteed. Vocalists will be invited to sing a second song if time allows. Performers should bring a jazz chart in the key that they will sing.

Tickets for the event, which is suitable for over-16s, cost £4.90. A curry menu is served in the Café Bar until 9.30pm and diners should book in advance. To book call the box office on 01227 769075 or visit the website at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

CANTERBURY LEISURE

Songs from the shows to boost festival fund

A FUND-raising event is being held for the Saint Nicholas Festival in Canterbury next week.

Bring a picnic to the Dominican Priory on Friday, July 17, where singers, Just Desserts, will offer a programme including Rodgers & Hammerstein, Lerner & Lowe and more. Tickets cost £7.50 or £20 for families. Call 01227 865301, email chrisn@cathedral-enterprises.co.uk or visit the Cathedral Shop in Burgate.

Free concerts and a female impersonator

MORE entertainment is on offer this week at Whitstable wine bar, Deco 5.

Enjoy free concerts by Frances Knight & Friends at 8.30pm on Thursday, The Fabulous 6Ts at 9pm on Friday, a jazz jam from 4pm on Sunday and the Blue Arcadians at 8.30pm on Tuesday.

Female impersonator Tiffany Wells appears on Saturday. For details call 01227 770079 or go to www.deco5.co.uk.

Young musicians are the stars of the park

SOME of Kent's most talented young musicians will be performing at Strode Park in Herne.

Kent Music School's musicians will appear at Prom in the Park on Saturday. Next Wednesday the Kent Youth Orchestra will present a blend of jazz, swing, rock and drum and bass. Tickets cost £8/£5. Book at www.strodepark.org.uk or call 01227 373292.

Barstewards' tribute to decades of rock

CLASSIC rock and blues from the 40s to the 70s can be heard live when The Barstewards perform in Canterbury.

The four-piece band plays cover a variety of acts, including Led Zeppelin, Cream, Jimi Hendrix, and The Doors. Find them at www.thebarstewards.com.

They will be playing at the Maiden's Head in Wincheap at 9pm on Friday. For details of the pub call 01227 452124.

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High Rocks Festival re-jig gives Power to the people

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

AS THE old adage goes, good things come to those who wait.

And so it proves to be for British Sea Power fans, with the Mercury Music Prize-nominated indie stars set to headline the re-arranged High Rocks music festival in Tunbridge Wells next month.

The Brighton-based outfit were originally booked to perform at the Sonic Heights 'A Day With British Sea Power' one-dayer earlier this summer but pulled out citing recording commitments.

But the Sonic Heights team were able to pull some strings, moving the whole music marathon to Sunday August 2.

The move sees existing ticketholders avoid disappointment and increases the likelihood of BSP playing brand new, never-heard-before material.

Sonic Heights' Chris Pritchard said he thought their debut event was shaping up well.

He said: "British Sea Power in a converted barn in Tunbridge Wells. It does not get much better than that."

"Sonic Heights are thrilled to be putting on this show, especially it being our first."

"It was a shame the event has had to be moved. The fact that we have to be patient for longer is the biggest frustration, but with possible issues occurring during the recording session, we didn't want this show being the reason for a delay of hearing the band's new material."

Scores of bands are being lined up on the undercard, with Tom Williams & The Boat, The Help Movement, Lights Go Blue, Maker



and Krissy & The Jackdaws already agreeing to play.

More bands and DJs are set to be unveiled nearer the time.

The High Rocks festival is open to over-16s only. Music runs from 2pm to midnight. Tickets cost £16.

For more information visit www.wegotickets.com/event/50660

LINE UP

A Day With...
British Sea Power
Tom Williams & The Boat
The Help Movement
Lights Go Blue
Maker
Krissy & The Jackdaws



LINE-UP: Brighton's British Sea Power (top) will be joined at High Rocks by Tom Williams & The Boat (above)

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HAIR-RAISING: Josh Weller plays She Shot Me at The Farmhouse, Canterbury



RUN WITH IT: Luke Jackson performs a cover of Snow Patrol hit Run



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- 5 Kayley Weller - 30/8 The Three Horseshoes, Mongeham

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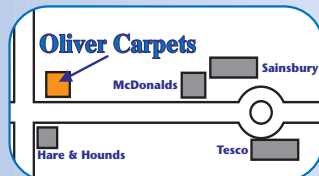
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The Canterbury shop on Sun Street which sells smoothies and milkshakes is giving children the opportunity to get free surfing lessons and tickets to Kent cricket matches.

They can also get money off skateboarding, climbing and bowling, play video games on an Odeon cinema screen, and also get free milkshakes and smoothies. See www.shakeshed.com.

Don't miss the market along the King's Mile

BOHEMIA is on along the King's Mile this Saturday offering a huge variety of food, arts and crafts, not to mention myriad independent shops.

The market will stretch the entire length of the King's Mile, from Guildhall Street down to the end of Palace Street.

Come and savour some of the many great items on offer and also, don't forget to visit some of the many shops, cafés and bars lining the streets that offer some great alternatives to high street stores.

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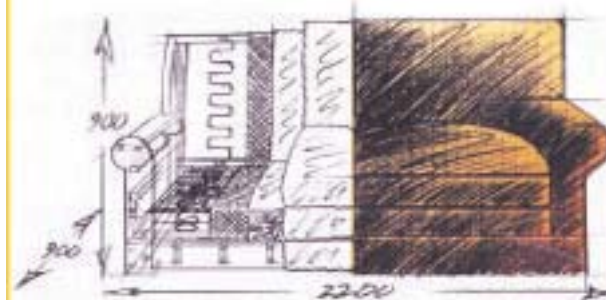
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LOOKING FOR ERIC (15)



A suicidal postman receives spiritual guidance from famously-philosophical midfielder Eric Cantona in this quirky British film exploring the escape football offers fans in their hour of need.

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (15)



The robots continue their feud in this sequel, with more slam-bang thrills and skirmishes between the noble Autobots and the Decepticons.

Cameron steps up to the role of desperate mum

■ BY KATE WHITING

AFTER years of playing the ditz blonde known for having one of the broadest smiles in Hollywood, Cameron Diaz is moving on.

Following roles in comedies such as Charlie's Angels and What Happens In Vegas, she admits that it was new territory acting in the big-screen adaptation of Jodi Picoult's heart-rending novel My Sister's Keeper.

Reflecting on her portrayal of mother Sara Fitzgerald, whose child is dying from leukaemia, she explains that she had to grow into the role.

"There was a certain level of maturity that had to come with playing this role, that I think I had to step up to, which I was happy and thankful for," she says, picking her words carefully.

In the film, Fitzgerald chooses to have a second child by IVF as a blood and marrow donor for her first daughter Kate.

The movie co-stars 13-year-old Abigail Breslin, best known for her Oscar-nominated turn in 2007's Little Miss Sunshine, as the youngest daughter Anna, who sues her parents for the medical rights to her own body, when she's expected to donate a kidney to her sister Kate (Sofia Vassilieva).

Cameron, 36, admits it was a "touchy" role to take on, but she felt ready for it: "It was a nice stepping stone in the experience of life."

Casting Cameron as a mother of three teenage kids is an unusual choice, but director Nick Cassavetes, who won acclaim for 2004's The Notebook, thought otherwise.

He picked her precisely because she had done so little drama, saying: "I really didn't want to cast an actress who had done some-



BIG SMILE: Cameron Diaz is trying something new

thing similar for this film."

And Cameron hasn't let him down. She speaks so passionately about Sara, it's easy to see she put a lot of herself into the film.

"I feel like Sara is a warrior," she gushes.

"She doesn't have a moment not to be vigilant. She can't be apathetic one second of the day.

"She has a child who's dying and she has

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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been through a decade of this vigilance. So, she's just sort of pushing through this."

To research the role, Cameron met mothers with sick children who were going through the same experience as Sara.

"No matter what the circumstances were - everybody had a different financial position or some were married and some were divorced - they all said that there's just not a moment that you aren't focused on keeping your child alive," she says.

"What's so wonderful with this film is that you see how it's not one person's story - it's not just a mother losing a daughter, it's a sister losing a sister or a brother losing a sister, a family losing their family together, all of them suffering separately as well as together."

MY SISTER'S KEEPER 
Certificate 12A

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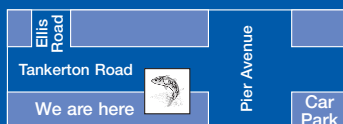
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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

THE WIRE
BBC2, 11.20pm, Wednesday
From 1.20am, Sunday morning

CRITICS the world over put *The Wire* up there as one of the finest shows ever to hit screens.

Many say it is the best full stop.

It's a fine body of work, of that there can be no doubt.

Centering on the complex story of Baltimore's drug-addled streets, action focuses mainly on those peddling the narcotics and those charged with bringing law and order back to the housing projects.

It's a complex, intricate world, as the show exposes the hypocrisy and injustice of life for all people caught up in the tangled web.

As a counterpoint to this, each series delves a little deeper into one specific aspect of that world.

Series one focused on the streets, while the second looked at the city docks and its longshoreman as they set about importing and distributing the white stuff – often at odds with the very core of their blue collar union values.

Series four looks at the effect on the school system, while five examines the reporting of crime by newspaper the *Baltimore Sun*.

On BBC Two we are on series three as it tickles the sordid underbelly of politics in Baltimore.

It is a rich and fascinating look at the balances struck and compromises made as the bodies pile up amid brutal violence.

What's special is that this is probably a lot closer to what goes on than many of us would feel comfortable with.

The writers never feel the need to explain every plot nuance, nor do they scrimp on the realism.

Get it and come along for the ride is



HARD-HITTING: Crime series *The Wire* has received many plaudits for its realistic approach

the message and if you can't keep up then just don't bother.

At times touching and at others downright barbaric, it's a tour de force that never dips into anything below brilliant.

The Wire deserves its place among the all-time crime greats such as *The Sopranos* but, as ever, the TV schedulers have done their best to annoy viewers by hiding this away and showing it at different times and dates.

My advice, if you love TV, is to buy yourself the DVD box set, settle down on the sofa and let all five series wash over you in your own time.

If you want a quick taster dip your toe into the waters via BBC2 to help you decide if you do want to splash out £80-odd of your hard-earned on the whole collection.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
THE spiritual satisfaction you've been seeking could finally arrive. You've finally come to terms with the fact you need more personal time to pursue your favourite hobbies. If this means setting aside a secluded work area or getting up early to work on a project, so be it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
YOU could win a publishing contract, legal settlement or long-running dispute. This welcome turn of events lets you move on to bigger and better things. Take this opportunity to look for a job in keeping with your skill set. Good news about a relative or neighbour is music to your ears.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
You're finally seeing the results of a rigorous health regimen. Take this opportunity to add some fashionable items to your wardrobe. Fortunately, a nice little earner will come your way. It will require lots of personal sacrifice, but the results will be worth it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
LEARNING a new skill will make it much easier to get a stable, well paid job. Take a course to learn accounting, construction or counselling skills. It may take a few months to get your certificate, but stick with it. A supportive relative may be willing to finance you.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
A CHERISHED wish is about to be granted and it's all thanks to a supportive friend, business partner, or lover. Don't hesitate to accept their generosity. Nobody realises dreams alone. The strength of having faith in yourself plays an enormous part in your success.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
A HEAVY flirtation could finally be consummated. If you're already in a relationship, your amour could get a raise, giving you more money for luxuries. Take this opportunity to buy something you will use on a daily basis. Funds could also become available will bring you long-term security.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
MAKE an effort to finish a writing, painting, or film project. Alternatively, think about starting a family or moving home. Taking on a new responsibility will give you great joy. If you're looking for work, explore opportunities related to travel, education, or publishing.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
MONEY from something you did a long time ago could finally arrive. Put the cash towards advancing your career in some way. Getting expert training will help you rise through the ranks of your preferred industry. You could be soon be recognised as a genuine creative talent.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
YOUR spell in the spotlight comes to a successful finale. A boost in status could be coming your way. Nobody could accuse you of being the recipient of random good fortune; your victory is the result of hard work and discipline. Take your bows and then spend more time with friends.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
AN engagement, wedding, or business deal will go off without a hitch and having someone by your side to stand up for you and support you will make your daily life much easier. If you aim to buy or sell a house or apartment get the help and advice of a professional or lawyer.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
THINKING about buying or selling property or doing your place up? Whatever your plans might be they will re-establish a comforting security and help you plan more constructively for the future. If a relative plans on getting professional help for a problem give them your support.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
THE results of a personal improvement project are impressive. Thanks to your hard work, you'll be able to expand your horizons in some material way. Travelling, writing, practicing law are all possibilities open to you in one way or another now. You'll never know unless you try.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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2		6	4		5			
7		5				6	3	4
3	7	5			4			9
9	4		1	6		5	3	
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MEDIUM

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HARD

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8	3		7					9
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CRYPTIC CLUES

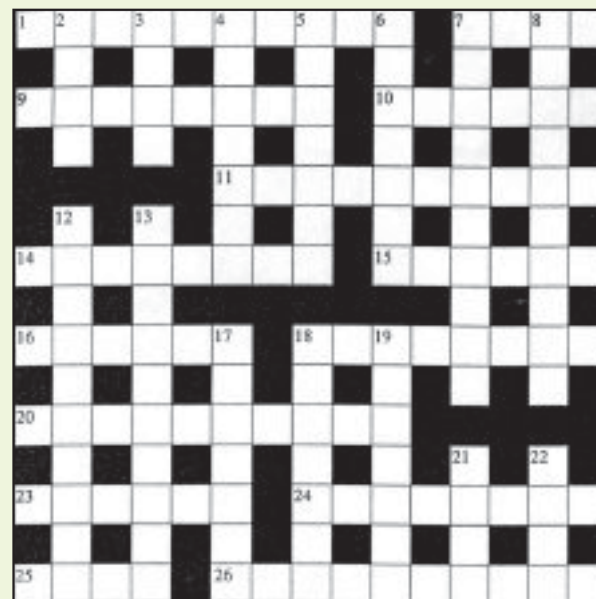
ACROSS

- 1 Start too soon in spring hunt eg confused (4,3,3)
7 Use one's teeth when about to cut (4)
9 A cod Anna prepared for low creature (8)
10 The merchant was booked in Italian city (6)
11 Fair and honest transaction by old-fashioned port (6,4)
14 Three-monthly perhaps (8)
15 Leg you injured whilst writing in praise of another (6)
16 Some most affable island (6)
18 Rescue rope found in one's palm (8)
20 Clever with cash that's a wise investment (5-5)
23 Prefer taste that's not left inside (6)
24 Supercilious horseman (8)
25 Describe devil trapping venerable saint (4)
26 Does it have a circle of members? (6,4)

DOWN

- 2 Skeletal part of incomplete lunar construction (4)
3 Choose to be a guitar player? (4)
4 Worker's lad personally involved (5-2)
5 Advancing slowly when it isn't steep (7)
6 Overturned vehicle, rear damaged, in northeastern Spain (7)
7 May two ladies have bell-shaped flower? (6,4)
8 Was substituting bartering (10)
12 Coppers Thomas manufactured built to a client's order (6-4)
13 Neutral area at railway terminus? (6,4)
17 Married frenzied lover (7)
18 Design etched on floor-covering first (7)
19 What bird will do at motorway intersection (7)
21 Man having cold drink first (4)
22 Some nutritious items are included in it (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Leave from work (10)
7 US tramp (4)
9 ___ Juillet, Bastille Day (8)
10 Gaoler (anag.) (6)
11 Run-down car (4,6)
14 Felled (8)
15 Distend (6)
16 Part of speech (6)
18 Go across (8)
20 Steeplechase rider (4-6)
23 Encipher (6)
24 New (8)
25 Gloomy (4)
26 Rotting (10)

DOWN

- 2 Cuckoo-pint (4)
3 Tub (4)
4 Small moth (7)
5 Folded (7)
6 Readable (7)
7 Flying machine (10)
8 Sterility (10)
12 Chaparral cock (10)
13 Dogmatic (10)
17 Binge (5-2)
18 Escort (4,3)
19 Amenity (anag.) (7)
21 Record (4)
22 Beige (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No94

EASY

9	1	6	2	7	3	8	5	4
2	5	8	4	9	7	3	1	
7	3	4	1	8	5	9	6	2
8	2	9	5	3	7	4	1	8
5	7	1	4	6	8	2	9	3
4	6	3	9	1	2	5	9	7
1	8	7	3	9	4	6	2	5
6	9	5	7	2	1	3	4	8
3	4	2	8	5	6	1	7	9

MEDIUM

7	1	9	3	4	6	5	2	8
8	4	3	7	2	5	6	1	9
2	5	6	9	8	1	7	4	3
3	8	5	4	1	7	9	6	2
5	2	4	8	5	9	1	3	7
9	7	1	2	6	3	4	9	5
1	3	2	5	9	4	8	7	6
4	9	7	6	3	8	2	5	1
5	6	8	1	7	2	3	9	4

HARD

7	6	4	3	8	5	1	2	9
1	3	8	9	6	2	5	7	4
9	2	5	1	7	4	8	3	6
4	9	6	8	5	1	2	3	7
8	7	3	6	2	9	4	1	5
5	1	2	7	4	3	9	6	8
6	4	1	5	3	7	8	9	2
2	8	7	4	9	6	3	5	1
3	5	9	2	1	8	7	4	6

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No94

ACROSS: 1 Ice-skating 6 Swap 9 Voice 10 Oath 11 Star 13 Light as a feather 14 Exhuming 16 Idiocy 18 Paling 19 Queendom 22 Job satisfaction 24 Milk 25 Smug 26 Ionic 27 Soya 28 Brute force. DOWN: 1 Involve 2 Eying 3 Kleptomaniac 4 Thousand 5 Notify 7 Watchword 8 Portray 12 Handkerchief 15 Hillbilly 17 Bunfight 18 Pyjamas 20 Manacle 21 Zimmer 23 Inner.

QUICK SOLUTION No95

Disc 22 Fawn. 17 Booze-up 18 Take out 19 Anytime 21 Tortrix 5 Creased 6 Legible 7 Helicopter 8 Putrescent. DOWN: 2 Aium 3 Bath 4 Expanded 16 Adverb 18 Traverse 20 Jump-10 Galore 11 Rust bucket 14 Poleaxed 15 Across: 1 Sabbathical 7 Hobo 9 Quatorze

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If you really want to treat yourself then you can dine in style in the world famous London Mayfair's Langan's Brasserie, exclusively on P&O Ferries.

You can sit back and relax whilst enjoying a Costa coffee on board along with a mouth-watering muffin or a slice of cake.

This is not just a trip with P&O Ferries; it is a total shopping, dining and travel experience and is not to be missed!

What to do and see

Thinking of where to take the kids during the summer holidays? Here are a few ideas all within one hours' drive of Calais

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unforgettable experience at the same time, inspiring them with a range of positive initiatives for the Blue Planet. It gives us another way to look at the world. Discover or rediscover the Oceans through four key themes: Sharks - Essential to Ocean Life, The Extraordinary Wealth of the Deep Amazing Whale Migrations, Fish from the sea to your dinner plate.

Le Touquet: With miles of wide sandy golden beaches you have virtually every conceivable outdoor activity catered for including sand yachting on one of the longest beaches in Northern France. **Aqualud waterpark.** The biggest amusement water park in Northern France, located on the French coast "Côte d'Opale" at Le Touquet.

St. Omer Area: The Flemish town of Saint-Omer stands on a hillside on the edge of the River Aa marshes, less than 30 miles from Calais. The large square in the town holds a weekly market on Saturday mornings, selling fresh local produce from the farms on the marshes. A branch of the river runs through the lower part of the town and a boat trip is an ideal way of seeing the 13th Century Abbey, houses and remarkable open countryside. Or you can visit the fantastic underground World War 2 museum nearby at La Coupole, the site of the V2 rocket in Helfaut and the Eperlecques Bunker are two of the great relics of the Second World War in Europe, that can be visited now as History and Remembrance Centres.

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MONEY MATTERS

**Keep growing
through the
recession**



Inside your pull-out supplement

- Be aware of fraud in your business
- Why one man won't take part in the crunch
- Is someone stealing your company identity?
- Time for businesses to pay on time
- Dealing with the pension fallout
- Getting on the gold bandwagon
- Are you caught up in costly red tape?
- Nail your next career move
- How businesses are riding the storm
- Make the most of motoring discounts
- Used-car idea that won't be scrapped

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Essential guide to where you can save

■ Lexterten Furniture in Westgate on Sea is offering £100 off elevating TV cabinets

■ Oliver Carpets Carpets in Ramsgate, Heme Bay and Cliftonville is offering 10 per cent off when you spend more than £600

■ Maidstone Kia in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering dine in the Verve Grill and upgrade a 6oz fillet steak to an 8oz or a 10oz sirloin for the same price

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all lift and rise chairs and motion beds

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, saving you time and money and using up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free tomato and mozzarella flatbread when you buy a bottle of rose wine in the Victory pub

■ Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off all bikes

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent off all food and beverages

■ Robins and Day Maidstone Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.99 services and MOTs from £119.99

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar military-style chronograph watch. Save £20 – offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Summer savings for our readers

COMPANIES' traditionally fight their battles against rival firms in the same sector.

But in the current economic situation, firms with an eye on the future are equally engaged with a fight against the conditions in the marketplace.

In this latest edition of Money Matters we offer some advice from the experts on how firms can keep themselves fighting fit by taking steps to avoid becoming the victims of fraudsters – from inside and outside the organisation.

There are also some top tips for individuals planning their pensions, and individuals looking for

a safe place for their savings. Gold is making a comeback, and you may soon even be able to buy it from a vending machine.

We also feature some of the many money-saving offers available at vouchersforkent.co.uk. There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; retail trades and services; and

also from members of the Canterbury Independent Traders.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

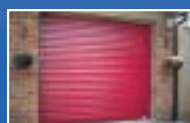
Summer puts us all in a good mood, and we hope these offers will help you to make the most of the sunny months.

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Picture: JULES SERKIN



SURVIVOR'S MESSAGE: IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, Jonathan Gwyer

Refusing to be bowed or beaten

By **TONY PATEY**

WHITSTABLE businessman Jonathan Gwyer is not allowing the current economic crisis to get him down.

Mr Gwyer, 37, wears a badge that states: 'I refuse to participate in a recession.' And he wants more people to do the same.

He said: "It seems some people have written off the year. We are still proactive and positive."

As an IT consultant and director of HDG Networks Ltd, the father-of-four is also chapter director of the local BNI, a business networking body.

Mr Gwyer admits there have been some hairy moments through the financial problems of the past year "like the moment Iceland's Icesave bank went into receivership."

"That was just before Christmas, and all of our capital was in that bank. We were very relieved when the Government rescued depositors."

At a time now when many large and small businesses are struggling, HDG Networks is confident that it can still be business as usual.

"I am finding that as a smaller business with lower overheads, we are getting work with companies that are trying to grow while keeping costs down."

"In a recent job, I was called in and the company in question had been quoted more than £4,000 for an expansion of their IT system."

"We were able to give them a more bespoke solution, and it wasn't necessary for them to spend anywhere near so much money. They were delighted."

"In a crisis such as this, businesses must adapt and we will do what it takes."

"We're doing everything from installing wireless and broadband in homes or offices, to building websites, teaching people how to run their own website or breathing new life into old PCs, in fact pretty much any kind of IT support."

Mr Gwyer set up HDG Networks in 2007, after 16 years at the drugs giant Pfizer in Sandwich.

He said: "I knew I could offer small businesses the kind of support that big business demands but within their own budgets."

"My wife, Helen, supported me all the way with my decision, I think she wondered what took me so long."

To find out how you can get your own badge, contact Mr Gwyer at www.hdgnet.com.

BNI
I refuse to participate in a recession.

Business of identity theft

ONE of our clients had its registered office changed without the company's knowledge.

This was done by someone simply printing off a filed form with the company secretary's name on and then tracing the signature onto form 287, enabling the change of registered office. The address remained changed for a period of some 14 days before the fraud was discovered by the company's auditors on a routine visit and corrective action taken.

The threat

Companies House estimates that there are between 50-100 cases of corporate identity fraud every month. While this is against a backdrop of tens of thousands of documents received each month, the cost incurred by British business as a result of corporate identity fraud has been estimated at more than £50 million each year.

Obtaining or changing a company's identity is surprisingly straightforward.

For example, a fraudster may file a change of registered office notice or change of directors' details at Companies House by signing one simple form. No great legal knowledge is required and copies of a serving company officer's signature are readily available from Companies House.

They accept paper documentation in 'good faith' and as such, will register documentation received without sending any further notification to a company that its details have been changed.

It is perfectly possible therefore, for a fraudster to appoint him or herself as a director of a target company, or alternatively change the target company's registered office address to one which the fraudster has access.

If you think identity theft only applies to individuals, then think again. **David Hallett**, a solicitor in the commercial team at Kent law firm Buss Murton, analyses corporate identity theft in the county

Once the registered office address has been successfully changed, all Companies House notices will be sent there.

Even worse, a customer or supplier may only send money or goods to the new registered office address as a matter of policy rather than sending those goods or money to the company's established trading address.

The fraudster only needs to be successful once at intercepting money or goods before targeting another company. Inevitably, by the time the company or authorities learn of the fraudulent activity, the fraudster will have moved and the postal address will be vacant.

The solution

However, there are procedures that can be put in place that will help to dramatically reduce the threat of identity fraud. These include:

1. Online filing. Every UK company is able to register for an authentication code (much like a pin number) with Companies House. Upon registration for this code a company is then able to submit certain documents (such as the annual return, 288a (appointment of a director) and 287 (change of registered office address) online. The use of online filing substantially reduces the risk of such documents going astray in the postal system.

2. PROOF scheme. Once a company has obtained an authentication code from Companies House, the company can then sign

up to the Protected Online Filing Service (known as PROOF). Once signed up (using form PR1), Companies House will then not accept paper copies of the forms listed under point 1 above. These documents will only be accepted electronically (submitted using the authentication code). Therefore, provided the authentication code is kept safe and treated as if it were a bank account pin number, then the chances of a fraudster being able to change a company's identity are dramatically reduced.

3. Monitor. Companies or individuals can register so that they are automatically notified of all changes that occur to a company's details held at Companies House. The cost of this service can be as little as 50p per year. Once signed up to a monitoring service, the nominated individual will receive an automatic update as soon as Companies House accepts and files a document in relation to a chosen company.

In addition to this, company information should always be stored securely and any information that is to be destroyed should be done so securely (as you would when destroying personal information such as your bank statements).

• **David Hallett is a solicitor in Buss Murton LLP's company and commercial department in Tunbridge Wells. He can be contacted at the firm's Tunbridge Wells office on 01892 502306.**

Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering a Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2,000

■ Wells Clinic, beauty treatment shop in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening, lines and wrinkle reduction treatment (b/tox)

■ Canterbury Mazda Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free bowl of strawberries and cream when you buy a two course meal in the Victory Pub

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half-price duvet and pillows with every bed purchased

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £14 off registered retail price for class 4 MOTs and £7.70 off class 7 MOTs

■ KOS is offering Traditional Barbeque Grill and Oven 'Smoker Bags' for £14.99

■ KOS is offering a saving of £200 on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £35 MOT

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■ Belmont Hypnotherapy in Ramsgate is offering five per cent off a hypnotherapy course

■ Secure Style, the windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay, is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors

■ KOS is offering a Doro 338 GSM big button mobile phone for £99.99

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ KOS is offering an all-seasons duck duvet, two duvets that button together for only £39.99. Save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off used vehicle when you present this voucher

■ Old Sawmills in Ashford is offering a £995 Mahogany Computer Desk, now £495

■ KOS is offering the Extreme Bra for £24.99

■ KOS is offering Zero Gravity Recliner Chair from £124.99

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

A timely code for

Big businesses make a pledge to increase the speed of payments to smaller companies

CREDIT management experts have welcomed a pledge from big businesses to pay invoices from suppliers on time.

The Institute of Credit Management (ICM) said it hoped the companies would live up to their word to pay on time and sign the Prompt Payment Code.

Some 11 new high-profile companies including Barclays, Sony UK, Sky and B&Q have committed to sign the code, as part of a campaign designed to help increase the speed of payments to smaller companies.

The code, developed with the ICM and supported by major business organisations, aims to establish a clear and consistent policy, and a climate of greater certainty in the payment of business-to-business invoices.

It is being hosted by the ICM at www.prompt-paymentcode.org.uk and includes a facility for suppliers to raise concerns about late payers.

The code focuses on three main areas: a commitment to pay suppliers on time; to give clear guidance to suppliers; and to encourage good practice.

The Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform group and the ICM have also issued a leaflet highlighting the benefits of paying on time and why it is important to become a

■ BY TONY PATEY

signatory to the Prompt Payment Code.

Business minister Shriti Vadera said: "Late payment can be the final straw for small business in the current climate."

"So the commitment by major companies heading up supply chains to pay on time is a win for all businesses."

Lovetts, one of the UK's leading debt recovery law firms has revealed that companies are 'going legal' on unpaid invoices a whopping 39 days sooner than a year ago.

The findings suggest that in the current economic downturn, businesses are only too mindful of the impact of late payments on cash flow and are acting quickly to reduce their exposure to bad debt.

Survival

Lovetts analysed the Letters Before Action (LBAs) issued on behalf of its customers in February 2009 against the same month in 2008, which revealed a 39-day acceleration in clients 'going legal'. LBAs are used to secure payment, or to obtain a response from a customer before the commencement of a claim.

Chairman and managing director of Lovetts,

Charles Wilson, said: "With recent news that the number of British businesses that fail is set to rise to 36,000 in 2009, the equivalent of one in every 56 companies, businesses are only too acutely aware of the potential for bad debt and the devastating impact this can have on their own survival."

"With all businesses trying to manage cash flow when there is little credit available, it's a spiral of suppliers chasing customers for money they are reluctant to release."

"The previous attitude towards frequent late payers may have been accepting and forgiving, but the current tough climate is pushing businesses to press for payment on time in order to protect themselves."

"Our figures certainly suggest that British businesses are determined not to be victims of bad debt and will employ all the tactics available to get paid, including pursuing debt through the courts."

"In particular it is encouraging to see that a growing number of companies are exercising their right to charge for compensation and interest on late payments."

"In this economic climate businesses need to ensure they are tackling late payment and bad debt head on. For small businesses in particular, it can be a matter of survival or failure."

To keep the cash flowing Lovetts suggests businesses consider the following actions:

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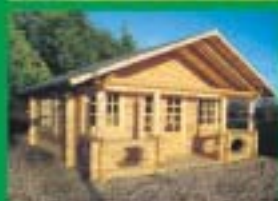
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late payers



SURVIVAL: Paying on time can be vital to help small companies survive the recession

- Bring your collection cycle forward, the sooner you get on top of potential debt problems, the better
- Seek compensation and interest through late payment legislation earlier and apply it on an invoice-by-invoice basis
- If you have interest provisions in your terms, consider whether they are sufficiently robust. Businesses with a rate linked to bank base rates are vulnerable here. Scrap the provision and rely on the 'late payment' legislation which gives eight per cent interest

over base rate, but don't forget to circulate the new terms to your customers.

- Instruct debt recovery lawyers early
- Avoid throwing good money after bad by conducting a credit-check. If the debtor is clearly struggling, negotiate realistic instalment payments or consider a discount for immediate payment.
- If the decision is to issue a claim, be resolute in pursuing it. If the debtor asks for invoices, supply copies and any information they want quickly.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

By JEREMY GATES

WHEN two of Britain's leading firms announced big cutbacks to company pension schemes last month, they highlighted once again the problems facing millions of private-sector workers when they stop work.

BP closes its final salary pension scheme to new entrants from April, 2010, while Barclays Bank is taking 18,000 staff out of its final-salary scheme and into an inferior defined contributions (DC) scheme, albeit with some protection against swings in the stock market.

Barclays currently pays £350 million a year into its pension fund.

Although both schemes will be superior to the average company DC scheme, the events suggest final-salary schemes could soon vanish altogether in the private sector.

Britain's biggest FTSE 100 companies, facing total pension fund deficits of nearly £30 billion, have little option if they are to survive the recession.

Morrisons last month switched 4,500 workers from a final-salary pension scheme into one based on average salary, while BT's share price continues to suffer from fears about its huge pension fund deficit.

Nearly three-quarters of a million British workers retire in 2009 and with the value of pensions assets held around the world slashed by more than £3bn since 2007, many will have trouble making ends meet.

A survey of people aged 60-plus by Intune, the financial services provider owned by Age Concern and Help The Aged, says 55 per cent of private pension holders are disappointed with the income they expect to get.

If they could do it all again, some 39 per cent would have started a pension earlier or paid more into it. Many would have switched pension contributions into a savings account or an ISA investment, or paid the mortgage off much faster.

Pensions are put under pressure

Mervyn Kohler, special advisor to Age Concern and Help The Aged, said: "Around 680,000 people are hitting retirement age this year, and more may be looking at buying an annuity earlier because they have been made redundant."

The downturn is savaging private sector pensions. Anybody with a £50,000 pension pot retiring in 2009 will be 27 per cent worse off – around £20 per week – than somebody who quit in 2008.

Laith Khalaf, pensions analyst at financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "Many firms are likely to follow Barclays and BP over the next two years, although the new BP scheme, with total contributions at 15 per cent of salary, will still be pretty good."

Struggling

"As they see the markets recover, firms will close off final salary schemes to ensure they do not hit another downturn with that millstone around their necks."

Approaching 60, most people can do little about their pension income. By then, it's too late.

At 30 or 40, however, there is still time to make sensible financial preparations for old age.

If you start saving for a pension at 25, about 15 per cent of salary should go into a pension pot. At 35, it should be 20 per cent, and thereafter a higher percentage, the later you start.

In fact, the average contribution into private-sector pensions is barely 10 per cent – and two-thirds of private-sector workers have no personal pension scheme in place at all.

Here are the options for workers struggling to find value for money from a private-sector pension scheme:

- Give up – don't put a penny in your pension. Anybody retiring on the basic State pension (£95.25 per week) and no other savings can claim Pension Credit for £130 per week.

- Once you're in a pension scheme, stick at it – because your employer probably tops up your monthly contribution.

- However, if your employer's scheme isn't particularly attractive, put other money into an alternative savings vehicle – a tax-free ISA perhaps, or alternative personal pension, or even a Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) which allows a wider choice of funds, chosen with or without expert advice.

- Drawdown option: if your fund is a minimum £100,000 and you have other savings besides your pension, there may be a case for taking the 25 per cent tax-free lump sum on retirement and leaving the rest invested.

Then you buy an annuity at any time you like until the age of 75.

- Delay your State pension, rather than your private one. On your State pension, each one-year delay adds 10.4 per cent to weekly income – so a £100 pension is worth £110.40 if it was started a year ago. If you defer a State pension at 65 for one year, you make up all the money lost by age 76.

- Don't rush off to the public sector, where pensions provision is more generous and guaranteed by the taxpayers.

Even though five million public-sector workers are still guaranteed final salary pensions, there's a possibility hard-up governments will have to cut the 'perk' in due course because it will look ridiculously unfair compared to the problems already facing private-sector workers.

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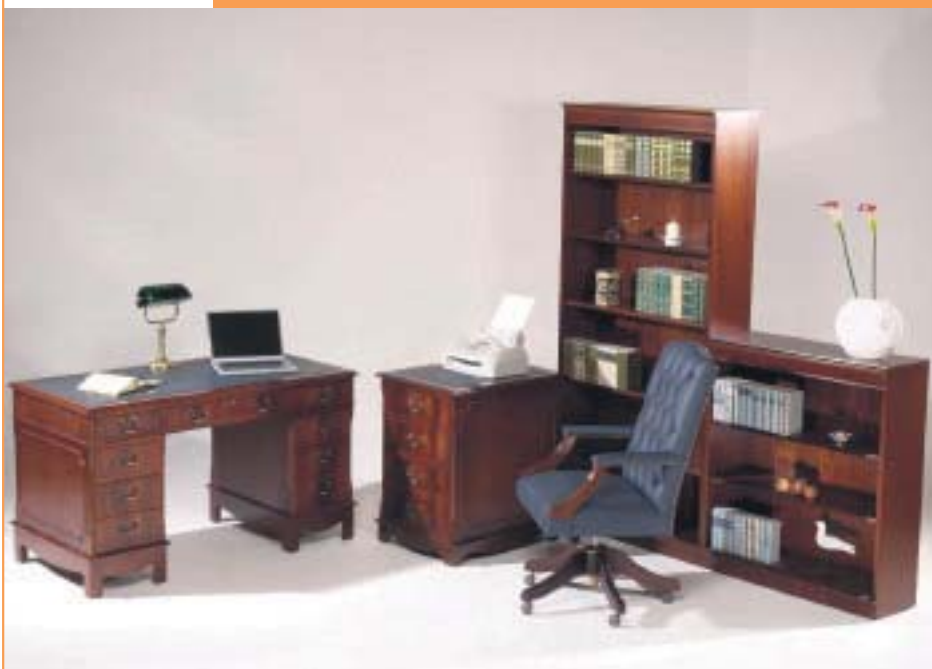
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Golden times for savvy savers

BY JEREMY GATES

ANY savers and investors unsettled by the recent disagreement between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer over financial regulation might be consulting their budget-airline timetables.

It was confirmed last week that Germany will introduce gold vending-machines as a new method of storing wealth.

While gloomy Britons contemplate poor returns on cash and shares, shoppers at Frankfurt Airport can buy a one-gram wafer of gold for £25, or a 10g bar for £245 – with gold coins also available if required.

“German investors have always preferred to hold a lot of personal wealth in gold, for historical reasons. They have twice lost everything,” the owner of the firm installing 500 Gold to Go machines in German-speaking countries told the Financial Times.

But with gold prices from machines about 30 per cent higher than market prices for the cheapest product, even Germans – who bought 108 tonnes of gold in 2008, up from 36 tonnes in 2007 – might have doubts about this new scheme.

Few dispute, however, that gold has been a strong performer in recent financial earthquakes.

Adrian Ash, head of research at BullionVault, an online service for gold bullion investment with 14,000 private investors worldwide, said somebody selling a home at the average price in Britain in 2004 could have bought 695 ounces of gold (at £220 per ounce) with the cash.

Today, with gold up to £603 an ounce, they could buy the average-price home back for 253 ounces. Or they could sell all the gold to buy 2.7 average-price houses.

In the intervening period, of course, they would have needed to stay with friends or family. Even 695 ounces of gold doesn't put a roof over your head.

“Real interest rates in the UK have averaged just 1.8 per cent so far this decade – barely two-fifths the real return on cash in the 1980s and 1990s,” Ash explained.

“The gold price in sterling, in contrast, has risen four-fold and more, as money's competitive

edge as a store of wealth has been steadily eroded. Physical gold ownership looks attractive to individuals worried about the future of savings.

“Gold's appeal is only likely to grow until real returns paid to cash turn sharply higher.”

Financial advisor Hargreaves Lansdown (HL) leaves share tips off the front page of its latest newsletter to small clients, and makes a case for gold instead.

“Given the current economic environment, it is time to revisit the merits or otherwise of the ‘yellow metal’,” says HL's Richard Hunter.

“It has proved a remarkably resilient store of value over hundreds of years, and in addition is an asset where investors seek protection when they need it most.”

He notes the net inflow of funds into all types of gold investment soared 80 per cent to a record £18 billion in 2008, despite falling demand for gold jewellery in India and the Middle East.

Many of HL's small investors use the BlackRock Gold & General fund to gain exposure to gold markets. It holds shares in 40-70 companies, most of them gold producers.

“It is realistic to have five per cent of your long-term savings in this fund,” says HL's Mark Dampier.

“Gold may be a fickle animal, but given serious geopolitical and economic problems, there is reason to see gold prices going significantly higher from here.”

There are various way for individuals to hold gold: Exchange Traded Funds, jewellery, coins (sovereigns or kruggerands) and bars, or derivatives which track gold prices among them.

Mining shares are another option. Hunter reckons a five per cent rise in gold prices triggers a 10-15 per cent hike in share prices, though this effect works equally strongly in the opposite direction.

At discount broker Killik & Co, analyst Mike Gilligan says: “Investor scepticism about the rationale for gold investment is valid, given that it is a non-income-producing asset hard to value from a fundamental perspective.”

“However, the macroeconomic case for higher gold prices remains intact.

“The recent spike in gold prices on the back of plans for US quantitative easing serves to reinforce our view that gold will serve as an insurance policy against inflationary pressures and/or economic dislocation.”

Volatile

Gilligan thinks gold demand could soar if Japan and China eventually reduce their vast dollar surpluses.

Frank Cochran, at financial advisor FSC Investment Services, notes that BlackRock Gold and General has performed “out of its skin”.

“Available data suggests gold prices going higher from here,” he said.

“In a high-risk portfolio, we might have 25 per cent in this fund. Lower-risk investors prefer five-10 per cent. The fund is a long-term hold, for capital growth rather than income.”

The downside is that gold's price remains highly volatile: since February, for example, the price has dropped from £700 to £576 per ounce, a fall of 18 per cent.

If Chancellor Alistair Darling has it right, the ‘green shoots’ of recovery might return us to a financial world we know and understand.

If it doesn't, the attractions of gold are likely to increase, even if few of us are ready to buy at a vending-machine.



BANKER: The financial attractions of gold investment are likely to increase

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Red tape, a growing cost for businesses

BY **ANDREW JONES**

SMALL businesses in the South East lose more than £1.4 billion every year due to government red tape, new figures have shown.

Research carried out by small business lobby and support group the Forum of Private Business (FPB) found firms in the region spend around £1,403 million each year complying with legislation – the highest amount for any region in the UK.

The figure, drawn up using feedback from FPB members, means entrepreneurs in the South East face the biggest bill in the country for carrying out the paperwork associated with running a small business.

The £1.4bn figure for the region, based on the amount of company time and money spent complying with the rules, includes £309m spent on health and safety legislation, £361m spent dealing with paperwork on employment law and £37m on dismissals and redundancy.

The work associated with staff absences cost £59m, costs associated with maternity came in at £36m and the work related to disciplinary issues was worked out at £49m.

FPB spokesman Matt Goodman said: "Our research shows complying with red tape remains one of the major cost burdens facing smaller businesses, swallowing up valuable time and money that could be used more profitably elsewhere."

"In addition, at a time when protecting both workers and businesses should be a priority, regulations are increasingly burdensome as businesses take on more staff."

Micro businesses (zero to nine employees) spend an average of 33 hours per month complying with regulations, small businesses (10 to 49 employees) 48 hours per month and medium-sized companies (50 to 249 employers) 131 hours – equivalent to one full-time member of staff.

Employment law is the costliest bureaucratic burden, costing small businesses £2.4bn per year. Health and safety administration costs £2.1bn and tax £1.8bn per year, according to the FPB's research.

The average time per month spent on employment red tape (dismissals and redundancy, discipline, absence controls and management, parental leave, and holidays) is ten hours. For health and safety, it is eight hours.

Business owners spend an average of seven hours each month on tax administration, four on building and property regulations, four on standards, three on environment and waste regulations, and an hour per month on equality and diversity.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Making it your job

How to convince companies you are the right person for the post

WITH jobless figures still rising, you never know when you might need to find a new job and it helps to have some expert advice on how to wow your next employer.

Damian Hayes, head of permanent IT recruitment at Bromley-based recruitment consultancy NetworkersMSB has some tips on how to nail your next role.

New research suggests that on average 16 people are chasing every job in the UK, up from a figure of 10 quoted by the TUC earlier this year.

The number of applicants for low-skilled jobs has also rocketed, with some advertisements attracting hundreds of candidates. Now more than ever it is important to make sure you stand out from the crowd.

Recruiters have seen a marked change in employers' demands lately; many are raising the bar higher than ever before.

Only last year, for example, candidates ticking eight out of 10 boxes for technical skills would have been offered the job but today, fulfilling the technical criteria is a given.

Employers are now placing just as much importance on how well you will fit in to their company and whether you have great communication and interpersonal skills.

Gain a New Skill

If you have time to gain a new qualification or learn a new skill, it will often give you the edge over another candidate with equal experience.

Achieving an additional qualification shows drive and ambition and when companies are becoming leaner and every member of staff is vital, it demonstrates you have the necessary commitment and motivation to get the job done.

Options might be completing an industry or vocational qualification, a business diploma or degree, or simply bringing your IT or language skills up to date.

Transferable Skills

Transferable skills are generic skills you are using every day, such as numeracy, IT literacy, sales or being able to work as part of a team.

Thinking about which of these skills you have might suggest alternative jobs that you could do or a different career path.

For example, someone with strong coaching or presentation experience could consider retraining as a teacher.

It is also worth considering other professions that use similar skill sets to your present job.

Learn a Language

Being able to speak a language can put you at an advantage, particularly if you're applying to work for a global company or for a job

that involves travel abroad.

So, this could be the time to brush up on your schoolboy French or German.

Added Value

Remember to sell yourself and not your job title on your CV. All too often CVs just list previous job titles and responsibilities.

Use the opportunity to illustrate the added value you brought to the role (and can bring to a new one) – such as by introducing a new system to save energy, improving filing, boosting productivity or simply just making the workplace run more smoothly.

Once you've made it to an interview then you have the chance to shine. Make sure you have a good knowledge of the company and its products or services.

Demonstrate a good understanding of what makes the firm tick – its values and ethos – and show how well you would fit into its environment.

Looking Further Afield

Although the UK economy is in recession, other economies are fairing better and for those who have few ties to the UK, now may be an ideal opportunity to fulfil a dream of travelling or working abroad.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Businesses' cash flow

By **TONY PATEY**

BUSINESS owners and managers across Kent are reducing costs, becoming more transparent, and investing in customer service in a bid to keep clients happy and avoid losing valuable business.

That's the picture revealed by new research from independent invoice financier Bibby Financial Services.

While it's not surprising that nearly two thirds (61 per cent) of business owners in the South East are actively pursuing new business as a priority to ride out the downturn, many (55 per cent) appreciate the importance of protecting existing revenue by upping customer service levels.

Transparent

And, more than a third (42 per cent) of the region's business owners are actually increasing their spending on hospitality as a means of retaining existing customers.

In fact, with 44 per cent of small and medium-sized businesses in the South East under pressure from customers to reduce their costs, more than half (56 per cent) of business owners were in the process of trying to balance the books by negotiating better terms with their own suppliers.

The research also revealed one in three business owners in the South East are now more transparent with clients and customers, for example giving them an insight into future business plans.

Despite their best efforts to take control of



KEEPING GOING: Business owners and their managers are reducing costs as they try to keep hold of customers through the current economic climate. Research has also revealed that more than half of businesses (55 per cent) were appreciating the importance of protecting their existing revenue by improving their levels of customer service (far right)

their firm in these unsettling times, effectively managing late payment and improving cash flow is still a major concern for 60 per cent of SME owners in the region.

Bibby Financial Services South East spokesman Andy Leopold said: "The drive for new business is all very well, but not if you're putting your all-important existing client base at risk at the same time."

"While it's promising to see the measures South East businesses are putting in place to survive the recession – ones which will also set them in good stead for long-term success – it is clear cash flow is still a major priority for businesses."

"Although the Government has now introduced several measures aimed at increasing cash flow to small businesses, few of them really seem to be taking hold, not least because the banks are themselves still struggling with liquidity issues."

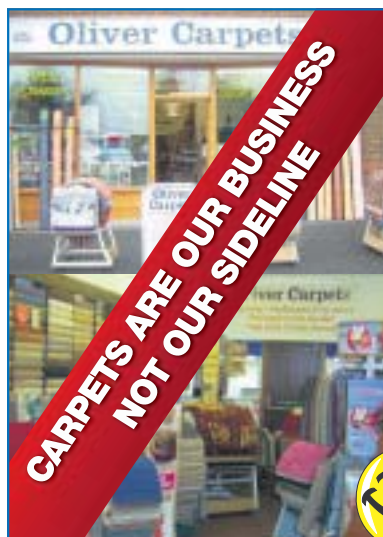
glings with liquidity issues.

"The important thing is for business owners in the region to look at all aspects of their cash flow situation, whether they need to tackle increasing late payment, or whether they need to change their pricing structure to stimulate client interest."

In most cases, newer business owners, for example those operating since 2006, are more likely to be open and transparent with clients and customers about their situation and future business plans, and least likely to be making changes in relation to cash flow.

Indeed, business owners without experience of previous recessions are least prepared to reduce costs for clients or customers.

In contrast, those who've been running their business for longer and have experienced several other recessions are more likely to view financial changes as a way to get



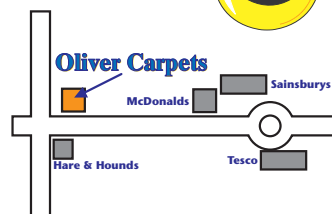
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their business through the recession.

When it comes to business sectors, those in transport are most likely to be following the cash is king mantra, with 86 per cent looking at managing late payment and improving cash flow, compared to just 46 per cent in the hotel and catering sector.

Mr Leopold said: "Irrespective of your experience, whether you're a new business owner or more practised, cash flow should always be your key priority."

"It is worth looking at all potential ways to

improve this, whether it be taking measures to improve client retention, negotiating supply chain deals, or even simply reviewing your finances.

"Taking steps such as talking to your bank to apply for an increased overdraft facility – though at the moment this could be easier said than done – or looking at other cash flow options, such as invoice finance, which frees up the value held in your outstanding invoices, will ensure you are able to focus efforts on getting your business through the recession."

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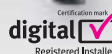
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Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS is offering rechargeable micro luggage scales for £19.99
- Hobbs Parker in Ashford is offering good quality second hand cars from £500
- Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45
- Rochester Court Kitchens in Rochester is offering 20 per cent off solid wood kitchens
- KOS is offering a Garden Sonic Blaster for £29.99
- Addictive Bikes in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all parts and accessories

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Buy a car to save cash

BY **STEVE LOADER**

IT MIGHT sound mad to buy a new car during a recession.

But with savings accounts earning so little, you will be surprised by what you can earn by waving your wad around in the car trade, where business has plummeted over the past year.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now – whether you have a 10-year-old ‘scrapper’ to trade or not.

Discounted

Even if, after raiding the bank account and teasing the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don’t forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on ‘run-out’, where production or importing ceased a while ago, or one with the wrong engine.

After all, with fuel prices continuing to be volatile, you don’t want to trade in your old gas guzzler for another just as bad.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars will always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.



GO GREEN: Enjoy the space and luxury of a greener big car like the new Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX rather than downsize, but check the higher purchase cost against lower running costs – you might be better off with the conventional Insignia equivalent

On the other hand, review what you have to part-exchange; you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax might also favour downsizing to a more efficient motor – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be

tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car.

The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don’t dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on heavier diesel equivalents.

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Government's scrapheap challenge has taken flight

BY STEVE LOADER

IT WAS a dodgy take-off, but the Government's £2,000-a-go incentive to scrap older cars in return for new ones is now flying.

Applications have boomed, prompting fears that the £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury could be exhausted before the official cut-off date next March.

There is some talk of a top-up donation, but if you are considering swapping your banger then get your new car order in now – firm orders will be honoured even if the delivery of the new car is delayed.

The donor car must have been registered before August 31, 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

For their part, carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no longer a big deal when interest rates are so low.



BUDGET BUYS: The Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme has made newly-arrived small hatchbacks like the exotic Alfa Romeo MiTo (above) and Nissan Pixo city car (left) attractive to budget-conscious motorists with a banger to trade in

On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and it is tempting to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will

have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ JC Farley furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order over £7,000

■ Living Out log cabins shop in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off all garden furniture

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories store in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

■ Bourne Road Motor Dealer in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Decorators Choice in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ The Orchard Restaurant in Maidstone is offering Kids Eat for Free

■ Hazel Motors in Chatham is offering £20 off air conditioning

■ KOS is offering a Karcher pressure washer kit at £99.99 including free accessories, save £116 on RRP

■ KOS is offering Snuggly mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phone for just £24.99, save £20

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Drive smarter to save more

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

SMALL SAVERS: Downsizing to modern cars like the latest generation Mazda3 or newly revised Renault Clio (right) can save money, but applying just a few driving tips will knock more pounds off your motoring bill



BY **STEVE LOADER**

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without

racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: <http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community>.



Essential guide to where you can save

■ KOS is offering Personalised Weekender Bags for just £29.99

■ Maidstone Kia Motor Dealer in Maidstone is offering a free set of maps with any new car purchased before the end of September

■ Robins and Day Canterbury Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99, and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Caffyns Vauxhall Motor Dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering half-price MOT with a service

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is offering 10 per cent discount on all room hire

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra 10 per cent off all sofas with this voucher

■ Linwood Electronics in Rainham is offering £100 off a Panasonic G10 series Plasma when you trade in your old TV

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning service for just £79.95+vat

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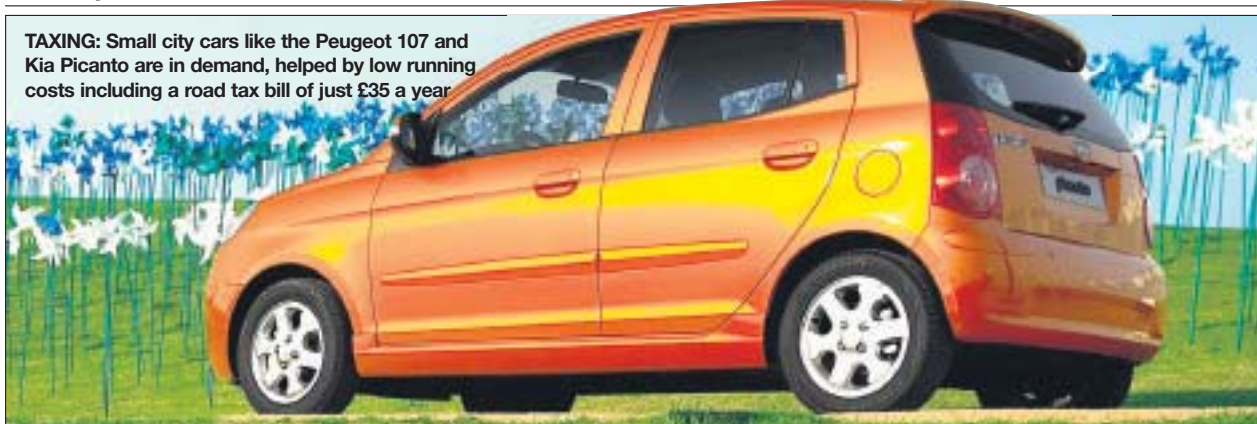
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TAXING: Small city cars like the Peugeot 107 and Kia Picanto are in demand, helped by low running costs including a road tax bill of just £35 a year



Duty calls for more savings

BY **STEVE LOADER**

WHATEVER you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you

ROAD TAX BANDS

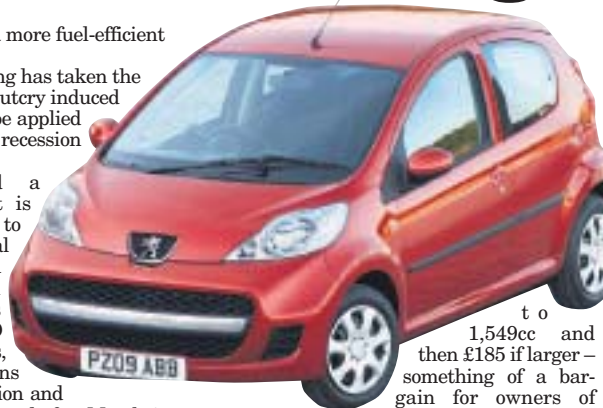
Band A (0-100g/km of CO₂) – £0
 Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
 Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
 Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
 Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
 Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
 Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
 Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
 Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO₂ emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up



to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Gold Care Petrol or Diesel, £169

■ KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ Baileys Nissan Motor Dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off all servicing

■ Homewood Orchard Garden Centre in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off its garden furniture range

■ Bones on Beds in Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off mattresses

■ Living Out log cabins store in Chestfield, Maidstone, is offering free installation on all standard range of log cabins

■ Motoline Renault Motor Dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Bradgate Park Luxury Holiday Homes in Margate is offering free Sunday lunch for two when you view the holiday homes

■ Secure Style, windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

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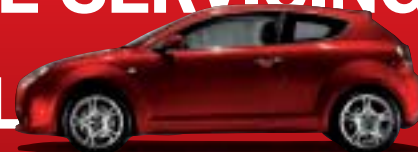
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It's downhill (nearly) all the way

BY SARAH O'MEARA

A 300-MILE bicycle ride in the searing summer heat of southern France, with only a bottle of Fanta and a banana for fuel, is few people's idea of a civilised holiday.

Yet touring the Perigieux prefecture of France's Dordogne region for seven days, we would change hotel every couple of nights, our luggage following safely behind in a van.

Heaving our bags into his van, our Headwater rep made it clear that we could stop worrying about unforeseen circumstances. For the next seven days, the only variable was the weather.

The Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling trip has been running for 10 years and pedalled into perfection.

Our detailed itinerary gave a choice of two different routes each day. Depending on our energy levels, and how much fried duck and red wine we'd had the night before, we would cycle anything from 12 to 25 miles per day.

Our rep, sweetly, gave us a real ordnance survey map, but in reality, comprehensive printed instructions with diagrams from Headwater were far too user-friendly to resist. This part of France is ideal for those new to cycling holidays.

The routes are quiet and made up almost entirely of back roads, well-maintained farm tracks and cycle paths.

There are also plenty of hills of varying difficulties. Once I'd discovered the joy of the cycling up a hill, getting a hit of endorphins and then whooping my way down the other side, there was no stopping me.

After a few days, I found myself looking forward to steep inclines.



REWARD: Pedalling up a steep hill is worth it when a view like this is waiting for you at the top

Free from transport restraints, high on exercise and blessed with perfect weather, we really did feel as though we'd been tapped with the holiday fairy's wand.

In fact, our only real responsibility was to find the hotel marked in the itinerary every other evening. And that wasn't difficult.

Cycling for four hours every day also meant that we felt guiltless about eating plenty of food. We'd happily consume a large dish of pan-fried duck with olives from a roadside restaurant at lunch, before sitting down to four courses in the evening just hours later.

When we needed a break from our saddles, there was usually something a little bit special on the horizon. As well as the countless chateaux, and wonderful restaurants, this area is also the home of Cro-Magnon man, one of the earliest recorded humans.

The site of Lascaux, close to the delightful town of Montignac, is where 17,000-year-old cave paintings were discovered almost 70 years ago. Unfortunately for tourists, these prehistoric images are now carefully protected from carbon-dioxide damage, and only copies are on public display.

FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	+One hour
Capital	Paris
Climate	Temperate
Population	62.5 million
Currency	£1 = 1.4 Euros
Religion	Catholic
Language	French

Travel details

Sarah O'Meara was a guest of Headwater Holidays on a Dordogne Gastronomic Cycling Tour, packages available from May to September from £1,098 to £1,227 per person (child £699 all season) for self-drivers who go by Eurotunnel. Prices for air-rail packages (based on Gatwick-Toulouse by BA) range from £1,199 to £1,299 (child £849 all season).

Tour only prices: £1,049 to £1,179 (child £679).

Singles: add £25 per night

Package includes half-board accommodation, bike hire, local transfers, maps and route notes, bag transport, 24-hour emergency support.

Headwater reservations: 01606 720 033 and www.headwater.com.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Couples forced to stay together by recession

DESPITE the start of an economic recovery the recession is still making life hard for couples wanting to move on after divorce according to family lawyers.

Resolution, which represents 75 family lawyers in Kent, says continuing problems in the housing market are preventing divorcing couples from moving to separate accommodation.

Family lawyer Daniel Bennett, of East Kent Resolution, said: "Selling the family home is often an important step for couples and their families making the transition from one home to two after divorce."

"But with limited mortgage deals, the increase in unemployment, and one in ten homeowners now in negative equity, selling up or moving on is easier said than done for many couples."

To help people in this situation, Resolution is today launching a series of online hints and tips for couples "living apart together" ahead of a national conference on family law in London.

These include trying to agree some ground rules, getting short breaks from one another and playing fair in regard to new partners or relationships.

But most importantly, don't lose heart, no recession lasts forever.

Repossession predictions are not looking so bad

GOOD news has come to those who are struggling to meet their mortgage payments following an analysis of the market by experts in lending.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has cut its repossession forecast as experts say lower interest rates and Government initiatives were helping people stay in their homes.

The group has revised its prediction for repossessions during 2009 to 65,000 from a total of 75,000. But the figure is still the highest for 17 years and nearly two-thirds higher than the 40,000 people who lost their homes in 2008.

The group said rising unemployment would lead to an estimated 360,000 people falling into mortgage arrears of at least 2.5 per cent of their outstanding debt during 2009. Although its revised forecast is 15 per cent lower than the previous one, the figure still represents a doubling in the 182,600 of homeowners at this level at the end of last year.

Analysts said record low interest rates were making it easier for households who lost their incomes to keep up with their mortgage, while they also meant people built up arrears more slowly.



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Constructive approach to affordable housing

■ BY NICK AMES

AS PART of the Government's Building Britain's Future plans, Housing Minister John Healey has announced that the construction of thousands of extra homes will begin in a matter of months.

The news comes after a £1.5 billion housing investment was revealed by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The Housing Pledge places councils centre-stage and involves building more homes more quickly. It is also aimed at creating thousands of jobs in the construction industry.

Changes to the rules for allocating housing will also give councils a bigger role in meeting the needs of people in their area. The pledge also includes commitments to improve access to social housing by providing tenants with more choice over the properties available, and commitments to clamp down on those cheating the system, so that more properties are available for those who play by the rules.

The cash boost will deliver an additional 20,000 new, affordable, energy efficient homes

over the next two years, with a further 10,000 delivered through the private sector.

Councils and housing associations will both have a key role in delivery of the new affordable homes.

The money will also extend the programme to get stalled housing projects back on track and prepare public sector land for construction of new homes as well as provide up to 45,000 new jobs in the construction industry.

Boost

The announcement came the day before Mr Healey outlined proposals to allow councils to keep all the proceeds from their own council house sales, as well as their rents.

Mr Healey said: "The Prime Minister's housing pledge is a huge boost to efforts to build the homes the country needs now and in the future. This investment will help fast track construction and I want to see work starting on site within the next few months."

"Alongside the significant increase in hous-

ing stock we will also work with councils to ensure the social housing system is responsive to local priorities and preferences.

"Together, these announcements signal my intention to get local authorities involved in delivering the housing their area needs."

"Councils haven't built significant numbers of houses for a long time, but with this extra cash and an overhaul of the council house funding system I am giving councils the green light to start building more homes."

"And we are putting our money where our mouth is to fund new housing association developments, get mothballed housing projects back on track, and free up public land for more affordable homes."

"In these tough economic times this is also a much needed shot in the arm for the construction industry creating 45,000 new jobs in Britain that will be key to the country making the most of the recovery over the next few years."

"When people see these new homes being built in their communities they need to believe that they or people they know have a fair shot at living in them."

Developer builds bridges with mouse community

HOUSEBUILDER Ward Homes is protecting dormice at its development in Boughton Monchelsea by helping them to safely cross the road.

The dormice were discovered before construction of The Woodlands, a development of one and two-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom houses located just off Brishing Lane. Ward Homes has installed a specially constructed bridge, suspended between two telegraph poles, which allows the dormice to cross the road without danger.

Together with the site's ecological contractor, Keystone Environmental, Ward Homes has installed a galvanised mesh cylinder, the most ecological material to use for this construction.

The bridge has been made more attractive to the dormice by being filled with a variety of native climbing plant species, such as honeysuckle. The plants are also encouraged to grow up and along the bridge as a habitat for the mice and to enhance the structure. There is also a large funnel at each end of the bridge to help them find the entrance.

In addition to the bridge, Ward Homes has planted a hedge along Brishing Lane to further develop the dormouse habitat.

Tim Nabbs, sales director for Ward Homes, said: "We feel it is of paramount importance to protect and preserve wildlife wherever we develop. Habitat fragmentation is a particular problem for dormice because of their reluctance to cross sections of open ground, so the bridge really is a tremendous benefit for them. It mimics tunnels found in their natural setting and is a safe way for them to travel."

"We choose the locations for all our developments with considerable care and are fully committed to enhancing the surroundings, making the most of natural features, such as mature trees and hedgerows."

"Our planners work closely with councils and the local community to identify sustainable solutions and our homes are consistently built on brownfield sites."

The Woodlands is a development just five miles from Maidstone.

HomeBuy Direct, the Government's scheme to help people move onto and up the property ladder, is available on selected properties at The Woodlands. It gives homebuyers the chance to move in for only 70 per cent of the purchase price.

Ward Homes will match the Government's



SKYWAY: A tunnel filled with climbing plants has been suspended between telegraph poles for the dormice

funding pound for pound in the new venture to provide an equity loan to the homebuyer of up to 30 per cent. The buyer finances the remaining 70 per cent either through a mortgage, a deposit, or a combination of the two.

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ST DUNSTONS £210,000

Large two bed second floor apartment in an exclusive development close to the City Centre. Fitted kitchen with appliances, sep. utility cupboard, lounge, en suite shower room to master, bathroom, private allocated parking.



NORTH CANTERBURY £156,000

Generously sized semi detached home with through lounge/diner, kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom, large rear garden.



CANTERBURY £70,000

Corner plot with full planning permission granted for three bedroom, two reception room, two bathroom house. Full details on application.



WEST CANTERBURY £315,000

Outstanding 3 double bed new build offering beautiful views of surrounding countryside. It has been furnished to a very high standard, comprises of 24' kitchen/diner, lounge, main family bathroom, one en suite, study area.



HERSDEN £124,995

Two bedroom semi detached home, double glazing, gas fired central heating, gardens, garage and no chain.



St Dunstan's £124,995

Spacious one bedroom purpose built City Centre flat, very well presented throughout, gas fired central heating, share of freehold, garage, lounge, kitchen/breakfast room.



ST DUNSTONS OIEO £350,000

City Centre penthouse apartment 1900 sq.ft. with three beds, two en suites, luxury family bathroom, stylish fitted kitchen with appliances, secure allocated parking, no chain involved. PART EXCHANGE AVAILABLE.



CHARTHAM £117,500

One bedroom period cottage in village location. Ideal holiday home or investment in rural location yet only three miles from the city.



CANTERBURY £375,000

A modern family home with lots of space! This terrific property forms part of a small development known as King's Park. It comprises four/five beds, lounge, dining room, kitchen, large conservatory, gardens & double garage.



CHARTHAM £199,995

A three bed semi detached home overlooking the village green. Two bathrooms, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, private parking and only approximately three miles from the City Centre.



WALTHAM £485,000

Final Phase Released. Exclusive barn development constructed and designed by specialist builders. Comprising of large lounge with beamed ceiling, luxury fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, two luxury bathrooms.



CANTERBURY £179,950

Newly refurbished semi detached bungalow, high quality finishing and styling throughout, lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, two beds, en suite to master, carpets, re-wired, new central heating, detached garage.



CANTERBURY OIEO £180,000

A modern end of terrace house suitable for either family or investors. Comprises lounge and a good size modern kitchen/breakfast room, downstairs bedroom, downstairs toilet and utility. Upstairs are four beds and the family bathroom.



CANTERBURY £237,500

Substantial three bedroom family home, short distance from City Centre, two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, large gardens to front and rear, no chain involved.



ST JACOB'S £220,000

End of terrace house situated close to town centre Lounge, conservatory, two bathrooms, downstairs toilet, NHBC guarantee, two car parking spaces, in fantastic order throughout, quiet location. NO FORWARD CHAIN.



Birchington £725,000

A fine example of a late Edwardian residence located in a highly desirable location. Four Winds' comprises five beds with the master en-suite, four receptions, family bathroom, utility room, boot room, and two downstairs cloakrooms.



SOUTH CANTERBURY £169,995

A two bedroom mid terrace house situated in a sought after location. Period features, new kitchen, the preverbal two up, two down within walking distance of the city centre.



BARHAM £399,995

Exceptional Grade II listed detached period cottage which is full of charm and original character features. It comprises lounge, drawing room, study, split level kitchen/breakfast room, cellar, four beds, family bathroom, courtyard garden.



HALES PLACE £152,500

Two bedroom terraced home situated near to UKC, potentially three bedroom investment, accommodation lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, separate WC, front and rear gardens, no chain involved.



HERSDEN £132,000

Two bedroom semi detached located between Canterbury and the Isle of Thanet. Two double bedrooms, lounge with wood burning stove, fitted kitchen/diner, off road parking, front and rear parking. No chain involved.



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Herne Bay

- Fantastic sea views.
- 7 bedrooms & 5 receptions rooms.
- Many original features.

.....£675,000



Bishopstone

- Impressive detached home 3/4 bedrooms.
- Fantastic views across farmland and out to sea!
- "Shaker style" fitted kitchen/diner.

.....£339,500



Beltinge

- Probably the largest plot on the development.
- 4 bedrooms
- No onward chain!

.....£325,000



Herne Bay

- 5 Huge Bedrooms
- Near to the sea
- Family sized kitchen

.....£240,000



Herne Bay

- 3 double bed chalet bungalow
- Less than 5 Years old
- Close to schools and seafront

.....£215,000



Beltinge

- 27ft Lounge
- Lovely Gardens
- 2 Double bedrooms

.....£209,995



Beltinge

- 3 bed semi detached house
- Extended garage
- Possible no chain ahead

.....£179,995



Herne Bay

- 3 Bedrooms
- Excellent condition
- Detached garage

.....£179,995



Whitstable

- 2 Bedrooms
- Needs Some modernisation
- No Chain

.....£164,950



Herne Bay

- 3 bedrooms
- Good sized lounge
- Garage

.....£159,995



Herne Bay

- 3 Bedrooms
- Luxury Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory

.....£159,995



Herne Bay

- 2 Bedrooms
- Immaculate condition
- No Chain

.....£149,500



Herne Bay

- 1 Bedroom warden assisted Flat
- Town centre location
- Lift and communal facilities

.....£99,995



Herne Bay

- 5 bed detached house
- Many original features
- Popular Central location

.....£315,000



Herne Bay

- 1/2 Beds
- Handy Location, close to Station
- Well maintained

.....£94,995



Herne Bay

- Ground floor retirement flat
- 1 Bedroom
- Parking

.....£92,500



Herne Bay

- Beach hut
- Equipment included
- Must be sold

.....£8,500



Greenhill

- 2 bed extended detached bungalow
- Popular Greenhill location
- Approx. 70ft rear garden

.....£175,000



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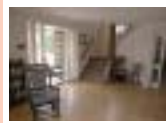
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Desirable & Sought-After Sea Front
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Conservatory. No Forward Chain.



WHITSTABLE £319,995

Exceptional 3 bedroom character cottage
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Hersden £156,950

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Chestfield £325,000

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Sought-after & Desirable Location.



WHITSTABLE £134,995

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Harbour.



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Bedrooms.



Chislet £375,000

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Canterbury OIEO £489,995

Four bedroom detached barn conversion. Two en-suites. Paddock. ORP.

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Canterbury OIEO £350,000

Four bedroom detached house. ORP & Double Garage. DG & GFCH. Great Location.

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Chartham £335,000

Five Bedroom Detached Family Home. Set over three floors. Garden. Two en-suites.

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Canterbury OIEO £300,000

Four bedroom well presented family home. En-suite & Walk-in wardrobe. No chain.

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Nr Nonnington OIEO £285,000

Two bedroom cottage. Period Features. Four paddocks. Two Stables. Tack Room.

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Upstreet £275,000-£325,000

Three bedroom cottage. Mature gardens. Double garage. Views over farmland.

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Westbere OIEO £235,000

Three bedroom semi detached house. Double glazing. Countryside views.

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Canterbury £230,000

A four/five bedroom. Two receptions, downstairs wc, bathroom and conservatory.

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Canterbury £229,500

Three bedroom bungalow. Open plan lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom.

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Canterbury OIEO £200,000

Two bedroom terrace. GFCH. City centre location. Modern style kitchen.

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Canterbury OIEO £190,000

Five bedroom property. HMSO registered. Fully furnished. Wireless broadband.

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Chartham OIEO £185,000

Three bedroom end of terrace. Gallery style kitchen and downstairs bathroom.

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Canterbury £174,995

Three bedroom semi detached house. Conservatory. ORP. Rear garden.

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Canterbury £165,000

Three bedroom semi detached house. Two receptions. 70' Enclosed rear garden.

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Sturry OIEO £160,000

Two bedroom bungalow. Garage. DG & GFCH. Front & Rear gardens.

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Wingham £160,000

Two bedroom semi detached house. Currently being renovated and refurbished.

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Wingham £159,000

Two bedroom retirement cottage. Internal viewing recommended.

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Wingham OIEO £150,000

Two bedroom terrace. GFCH. Village location. Brick pantry.

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Dunkirk £127,500

Three bedroom park home. No chain. Double glazing & GFCH.

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Canterbury £110,000

One Bedroom Retirement Apartment, Great Location, No Onward Chain.

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Canterbury OIEO £110,000

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CANTERBURY £83,000

One bedroom second floor retirement flat with warden assistance, also has a residents lounge, lifts and communal laundry. Accommodation entrance hall, living room, kitchen, bathroom and store room.

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PETHAM OIEO £124,000

Two bedroom park home with views over countryside and situated on the outskirts of Petham Village, and above average sized garden. Viewing is highly recommended.

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CHARTHAM OIEO £129,995

A very well presented two bedroom ground floor apartment situated in the St Augustines Estate. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom.

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HERSDEN £160,000

Three/Four bedroom semi detached family home. Accommodation entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge/diner, study/bedroom four, kitchen with a further three bedrooms and bathroom.

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CHARTHAM £173,950

A charming well presented two bedroom terrace cottage. Accommodation lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom and conservatory to the ground floor with two bedrooms on the first floor.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253



CANTERBURY £190,000

A charming three bedroom semi detached cottage. Accommodation entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen and bathroom to the ground floor with three bedrooms to the first floor.

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WINCHEAP £225,000

Three Bedroom terrace house, two with en suite facilities, convenient location for town, double glazing, gas fired central heating, garage.

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WINGHAM £237,950

Three bedroom detached home. Accommodation comprises entrance porch and hall. Cloakroom, living room, family room, kitchen/dining room on the ground floor and bathroom to the first floor.

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CANTERBURY £249,950

Three bedroom detached bungalow being offered with no chain and situated off the ever popular New House Lane. Accommodation entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, separate toilet.

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BRIDGE £299,950

Four/five bedroom link detached house. Accommodation hall, lounge/diner, study, cloakroom, conservatory, kitchen/diner and utility to ground floor with four bedrooms and family bathroom.

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HERNE BAY £299,995

Secluded detached cottage, two bedrooms, bathroom plus shower room, gas fired central heating, conservatory, sitting room with inglenook, galleried landing, gardens, two garages.

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FAVERSHAM £115,000

No Onward Chain! A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment offering open plan living/kitchen area and wet room.

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FAVERSHAM OIEO £125,000

No Onward Chain! A two bedroom mid-terrace home also offering lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking.

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FAVERSHAM £155,000

No Onward Chain! A three bedroom end of terrace house also offering cloakroom, lounge/dining room, kitchen/dining room, family bathroom and rear garden.

Faversham Office 01795 538112



OARE £159,950

No Onward Chain! A well presented two bedroom mid-terrace cottage also offering two reception rooms, 100ft rear garden and two parking spaces.

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BOUGHTON-UNDER-BLEAN £210,000

A two bedroom detached bungalow also offering lounge, kitchen, conservatory, shower room and rear garden.

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FAVERSHAM £250,000

A four bedroom family home also offering two reception rooms, a cellar, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and gardens.

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OSPRINGE £270,000

A stunning three bedroom semi-detached house situated in a private road and offering two reception rooms and beautiful spacious garden to the rear.

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LUDDENHAM OIEO £340,000

A four bedroom semi-detached property in a rural location with two reception rooms, kitchen and utility room, four piece en-suite bathroom and family bathroom.

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FAVERSHAM £350,000

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FAVERSHAM £420,000

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Aylesham



£129,950

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Sturry



£174,950

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Bekesbourne



£199,995

A superb two bedroom semi-detached bungalow offering spacious accommodation, driveway and garage.

Canterbury



£229,500

A three bedroom detached bungalow also offering lounge/dining room, kitchen, bathroom, enclosed rear garden.

Harbledown



OIRO £279,995

A three bedroom bungalow offering two bathrooms, separate WC, kitchen, double aspect lounge and gardens.

Upper Harbledown



£340,000

A three bedroom semi-detached house with attractive gardens, two receptions, driveway and double garage.

Wingham



£350,000

Four bedroom bungalow with open plan lounge/dining room/kitchen. En-suite, bathroom and garden.

Patricxbourne



£400,000

A detached converted stable block offering four bedrooms, lounge/diner, kitchen and garage.

Molash



OIEO £489,995

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- 2 Reception Rooms
- 85 ft Garden

PETT BOTTOM

£350,000



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- Picturesque Rural Views
- 142 ft Front Garden
- Driveway and Garage

WINGHAM

£275,000



- 2 Bed Semi detached Cottage
- "Jack and Jill" style Bathroom
- Additional En Suite
- Conservatory

CHARTHAM

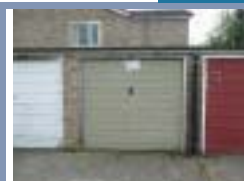
£169,995



- Two Bed Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge, Fitted kitchen
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Internal Viewing

GARAGE

£10,000



- Great Location
- Lock up Garage Available
- Up and Over Door
- NO CHAIN !!!!!

CANTERBURY

£155,000



- Cul De Sac Location
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Garden

STURRY

£89,950



- One Bed Retirement Apartment
- No Onward Chain
- Owners Lounge
- Stairlift to First Floor

WOOLAGE GREEN

£235,000



- Period Semi Detached House
- Two Receptions
- Fitted Kitchen, Luxury Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms

AYLESHAM

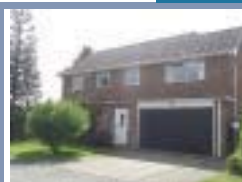
£142,995



- Three bed semi detached house
- Lounge & Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- D, Glazing, Gas Central Heating

TYLER HILL

£375,000



- Detached Four Bed House
- En suite, Downstairs Cloakroom
- Two Receptions, Utility Room
- Double Garage, Parking

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- 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen / Family Room

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Herne Bay | Price Range: £230,000-£260,000

- Outstanding Extended 1930's 4 Bedroom Home
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room in Excess of 19'
- Bathroom, En-suite Shower Room, Utility Room

HERNE BAY OFFICE | 01227 361226



Chartham | Price Range: £205,000-£230,000

- Very Well Presented 3 Bedroom Home
- 2 Receptions, Conservatory, Cloakroom, Ensuite
- Garage & Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden

CANTERBURY OFFICE | 01227 766669



Whitstable | Price Range: £200,000-£230,000

- Enclosed Rear Garden, Apple, Pear & Plum Trees
- D. Glazing, Central Heating, Off Street Parking
- Larger Than Average Plot. Cul de Sac Location

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Whitstable | Price Range: £180,000-£200,000

- Popular Conservation Area
- 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Gas Central Heating, Vacant Possession

WHITSTABLE OFFICE | 01227 772272



Whitstable | Price: £164,950

- 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
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MOTORS NEWS



Ford dealers make most of Scrappage scheme

FORD'S car business is on the scrap heap, with UK dealers taking an amazing 300 orders daily under the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

Buyers get at least £2,000 back if they consign their 10 or more-year-old banger to the crusher in return for buying a new car.

Ford's big seller is the Fiesta, from £8,595 under the scheme with the Ka city car next (pictured right), from £6,595.

Ford says the scheme is also delivering 'conquests' to its dealers; only half of cars surrendered are Fords.



Nissan building on scrap deal to boost profits

NISSAN has picked up the Scrappage ball and run with it by offering a £2,000 minimum trade-in on 8-10-year-old cars as well as 10-year-old bangers targeted by the Government.

And this deal has been extended until September 30, 2009 for customers buying models built at Nissan's Sunderland plant – the Qashqai (pictured left), Note and Micra (right) – so it also benefits recession-hit 'UK PLC' directly.

Under either scheme, a new car can cost as little as £5,995, in the case of the Micra supermini.



Fiat lift lid off remake of classic 50s open top

FIAT has paid further homage to its original 1950s 500 Nuovo by launching a chic convertible version of the current and retro-styled 'Cinquecento'.

And the UK – a major market for open tops – is the world's first to get the new Fiat 500C, a recycling of the 1957 fabric roof Fiat 500.

While using the original's roll-top canvas roof format though, the newcomer is a thoroughly modern interpretation, but commands a £3,000 premium over its hatchback sister, with prices from £11,300 (1.2 Pop 500C).



SOUND KOREA MOVE: The new Hyundai i20 may not match the excellent Ford Fiesta but it is superb value for money and comes with the usual five-year warranty

Supermini highlights advances by Hyundai

ROAD TEST HYUNDAI i20

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

full complement of airbags, air con and glove box cooler, electric front windows plus fully adjustable wheel and driver's seat – all from £8,195.

Under the Government sponsored Scrappage scheme for owners of cars ten or more years old; qualifying i20 buyers can also save some £3,000 by trading in a banger.

But they may miss the 'wow' factor of buying a more modern motor for the i20's chassis balances comfort and sporty, yet falls short of the driver feedback of sophisticated rivals like the Fiesta.

And the interior is robust with nice touches, but even lively upholstery in our mid-range Comfort trim test car failed to lift a slightly dour atmosphere, though you do get a USB link for your MP3 player/iPod at this level.

Of the three engine options, discount the 75bhp 1.4-litre diesel tested here (from £10,145); the front wheels can scramble under initial acceleration in wet conditions, yet it runs out of puff later and generally feels heavy and lumpy in such a small car.

It also adds £1,000 to the price of the equivalent 99bhp 1.4-litre petrol, while the even cheaper (by £500) 77bhp 1.2 petrol is peppy, economical and easily the best drive.



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Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Details correct at time of going to press. This advert cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. *£5000 is made up of £1000 Government allowance, £1000 dealership contribution and upto £3000 saving from 'was' price. Government Terms and conditions apply to Scrappage Allowance. Applicable to vehicles contracted through Invicta Ford between 1st July and 30th September 2009 and registered between 1st July and 30th September 2009.

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

RECESSION BUSTING/COUPÉS

carsforkent.co.uk

STILL want fun at a recession-busting price? How about our pick of affordable coupés? They all cut a dash for a lot less cash, but each offers a different approach ranging from the no-nonsense Coupé from Korea's Hyundai, through Citroën's Gallic take on the three-door 'coupé' cum family hatchback format to a classic yet still attainable thoroughbred from Italy's Alfa Romeo. None should break the bank on running costs either, especially as two are available with diesel power, and yet all deliver the rewarding drive expected of a coupé.

ALFA GT



THERE is the sense that Alfa Romeo's dark days of rusting and reliability problems are gone, yet doubts remain in the minds of some used car buyers – good news for anyone prepared to take a calculated risk on the sporty yet practical GT. Slinky styling disguises what is actually a spacious 2+2 with a decent hatchback, plus a range of engines from sensible to mad, including some tweaked versions of smooth and refined diesels courtesy of Alfa's Fiat parent.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CITROËN C4



CITROËN really needed to pull off something special when it launched its current family hatch. So the C4 is a far better car than the dull Xsara it replaced and the three-door 'coupé' has one of the most individual looks on the road. Rakish and racy lines are abruptly curtailed by a chopped and glassy rear end. Balancing such curvaceous yet brutal styling, the C4 offers affordable sportiness, handling and riding well without the irritating quirkiness of old-style Citroëns.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HYUNDAI COUPÉ



ONCE Hyundai sorted out the glitches of early generations, the brand's 'budget four-seat coupé' proposition was bound to take off. The latest version is beefier and smarter and confirms what great value the Korean sportster is. The chassis cannot rival key competitors, but delivers lots of fun for a modest outlay. For 0-60mph in 8.2 seconds, there is also the 2.7 V6 version and you are sure to find many Coupés with some of Hyundai's generous five-year warranty still intact.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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(TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.25 Style 3dr (Climate),
y155btu, adjustable seats, adjustable
steering column/wheel, air
conditioning, blue, 27301 miles,
£6495, Gravesend, 01474 537111
(TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 GHIA 5dr - FULL
LEATHER, wu58kca, abs, adjustable
seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels,
computer, driver airbag, electric
mirrors, foglights, head restraints,
folding rear seats, leather
seats, black, 7217 miles, £8495,
Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 ZETEC 5dr Auto, nb08lmw,
air conditioning, alloys, side airbags,
radio/cd, all vehicles come with
balance of 3 year, electric mirrors,
electric windows, foglights, front
armrest, heated screen, locking
wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic
paintwork, passenger airbag, power
assisted steering, remote locking,
grey, 13442 miles, £10995,
Sittingbourne, 01795 426693
(TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8 SPORT 5dr, nc07tcy,
adjustable seats, adjustable steering
column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy
wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors,
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balance of 3 year, contact the used
car team for more help, with over 400
ford cars in stock today. silver, 45535
miles, £7495, Sittingbourne, 01795
426693 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3 TDCI Zetec 3dr, gf58zdw,
metallic, abs, adjustable steering
column/wheel, air conditioning,
computer, driver airbag, electric
windows, immobiliser, metallic
paintwork, remote locking, insurance
group:2, blue, 2500 miles, £9995,
Sittingbourne, 01795 426693
(TRADE)

KA, 1.3i STYLE [70] 3dr (Climate),
oe07jpx, air conditioning, driver
airbag, electric mirrors, electric
windows, head restraints, folding rear
seats, immobiliser, power assisted
steering, adjustable steering
column/wheel, insurance group:3,
blue, 25637 miles, £5790, Crayford,
01322 621667 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr - FORD
DIRECT, ea58ubt, adjustable seats,
adjustable steering column/wheel,
alloy wheels, climate control,
computer, cruise control, driver
airbag, electric mirrors, electric
windows, 117 alloys, call les
bellchambers 01474 537 537.
insurance group:10, silver, 4577
miles, £19995, Gravesend, 01474
537111 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 GHIA X 5dr, en05cev,
adjustable seats, adjustable steering,
driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric
windows, foglights, front armrest,
electrically adjustable seats, head
restraints, folding rear seats, heated
seats, radio/cd multichanger, rear
headrests, insurance group:11, black,
32914 miles, £6990, Crayford, 01322
621667 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCI Ghia 5dr [6],
mv58lgt, adjustable seats, adjustable
steering column/wheel, air
conditioning, alloy wheels, central
locking, electric mirrors, electric
windows, remote locking, radio/cd,
insurance group:7, silver, 30970
miles, £13990, Crayford, 01322
621667 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.2 TDCI Titanium X
5dr****DVD NAV +6 CD****,
eo58mvy, metallic morrello, abs,
adjustable seats, adjustable steering
column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy
wheels, computer, cruise control,
driver airbag, electric mirrors,
electric windows, foglights, front
armrest, electrically adjustable seats,
heated seats, leather seats, lumbar
support, immobiliser, passenger
airbag, power assisted steering, rear
armrest, remote locking, side airbags,
radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests,
sports seats, traction control,
insurance group:12, red, 11380
miles, £17995, Sittingbourne,
01795 426693 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 Zetec 5dr - SPORTS
PACK, ad08unt, call les bellchambers
01474 537 537, adjustable seats,
adjustable steering column/wheel, air
conditioning, alloy wheels, body kit,
central locking, cloth upholstery,
climate control, foglights, front
armrest, head restraints, heated
screen, locking wheel nuts, lumbar
support, immobiliser, metallic
paintwork, multi function steering
wheel, passenger airbag, power
assisted steering, radio, rear armrest,
remote locking, side airbags,
radio/cd, spoiler, tinted glass, traction
control, insurance group:8, grey,
24868 miles, £11295, Gravesend,
01474 537111 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCI Zetec 5dr [6],
ex58vyp, adjustable seats, adjustable
steering column/wheel, air
conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft
system, central locking, cloth
upholstery, climate control, colour
coding body, colour coding interior,
computer, cruise control, driver
airbag, electric mirrors, electric
windows, heated screen, locking
wheel nuts, lumbar support,
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les bellchambers 01474 537 537.
insurance group:7, silver, 12211
miles, £12995, Gravesend, 01474
537111 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCI Zetec 5dr [6] -
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zetec sports pack, abs, adjustable
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insurance group:7, blue, 21979
miles, £11995, Gravesend, 01474
537111 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCI Titanium X 5dr
- PRIVACY, PARK ASSIST, eo58ljs,
park assist, metallic chill, ford
assist, privacy glass, 18 alloy
wheels, esp, auto headlights, auto
wipers, folding mirrors, sony
stereo, abs, adjustable seats,
adjustable steering column/wheel,
air conditioning, alloy wheels,
central locking, child locks, cloth
upholstery, climate control, colour
coding body, colour coding interior,
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37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

08/145

Lecturer Public Services

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

09/36

Lecturer Performing Arts -Drama and Musical Theatre

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

09/37

Lecturer Chemistry

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

06/182

Lecturer Plumbing and Gas Fitting

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

09/39

Higher Education Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Electrical/Electronic Engineering

Building Surveying - AutoCAD

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

S/HE

Supply Lecturer Nail Technology

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

S/NT

Learning Support Independent Living and Leisure Skills

30 hours per week, 38 weeks term time.

Salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum. One Year Fixed Term Post

09/34

Trainer Demonstrator Theatre Costume and Props Construction

18.5 hours per week, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

09/40

Business Development Administrative Assistant

37 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 per annum

07/49

Supply NVQ Assessors required in the following areas:

Early Years

Play work

Nail Technology

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

S/NVQ/EY
S/NVQ/PW
S/NVQ/NT

Supply Trainer Demonstrator Beauty Therapy

Various hours available, salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

S/TD/BT

Supply Recreation Assistants

Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

S/RA

Night Cleaners

20 hours per week, salary £6.42 per hour

08/22

For an application pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282, quoting the post reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre

- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Closing date for above posts is Monday 20th July 2009 @ 12 noon

CLICK

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Catering and Hospitality Ref: P0544

Salary: £30,204 - £33,935 per annum

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to provide support to the Head of School on all Staffing, Student, Curriculum and Quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning, have experience of the industry and have good negotiating/communication skills. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Biology Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to teach on and participate in the development of a range of Biology courses on Access, A levels and BTEC. The successful candidate will hold a relevant degree in Biology and possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are looking for an individual with the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen field.

Lecturer in Sport Ref: P0102

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will hold at least a level three qualification and have some teaching/training experience along side industrial expertise. They must hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Health Care Ref: P0650

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

18.5 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of a range of Health Care programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: P0651

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for an experienced, creative and dynamic individual to work as a course tutor within the Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and must be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Departmental Administrator Ref: P0245

Salary: £12,795 £16,059 per annum/pro rata

Full time – Medway Campus

Part Time – Maidstone Campus

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Wednesday 8 July 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



MidKent College

Earn while you learn!

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding apprentices in the following areas:

Customer Service

Administration

Plumbing

Carpentry/Joinery

Hairdressing

Painting and Decorating

Training allowance: £6,171

Successful candidates will work towards the apprentice framework including a relevant NVQ Level within their chosen subject. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who will benefit from learning whilst working in a stimulating environment. All apprentice roles are to start 1 September 2009. Interviews are scheduled to take place the week beginning 20 July 2009.

Closing date: 20 July 2009

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MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

HR Adviser

Salary - £29,559-£36,630

MidKent College has been providing 'top quality' education and training in Kent for almost 100 years. As one of Kent's largest further and higher education Colleges it is important that we also provide 'top quality' support for our managers and staff in this innovative and exciting environment.

We are expanding our HR team to include professional, CIPD qualified HR Advisers, who will strengthen our provision of advice and guidance for managers and staff. We are looking to appoint experienced professionals who can support organisational change processes and have good knowledge of employment law, combined with strong generalist experience and knowledge in key areas of HR delivery. This will include employee relations, performance management, recruitment, workforce planning and organisational development.

Our strong customer service focus requires excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to engage with people at all levels of the organisation, working to drive, develop and implement new HR policies and initiatives that support the delivery of 'top quality' education and training.

For an application pack please contact Caroline Stark on 01634 884511 or e mail caroline.stark@midkent.ac.uk

Closing date: Mid-day July 15th 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

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MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



Part-Time Distributors

JOIN OUR AWARD WINNING TEAM, AND EARN EXTRA CASH. WE NEED PEOPLE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: THANET, WHITSTABLE, CANTERBURY AND ASHFORD.

Opportunities are available to join our team of Distributors handing our papers to the public at strategic points, and delivering copies to shops and businesses.

Each person will have a designated area handing out newspapers to commuters or shoppers, etc, every Wednesday morning from around 6.30am for the Whitstable, Canterbury and Ashford areas and in the Thanet area we require a person to distribute to businesses during Saturday evening.

You will need to be at ease talking to the public and capable of working under your own initiative, and be of smart appearance, as you will become a representative of our award winning company.

Rate of pay being £6.50 per hour, plus 40p mileage allowance if relevant.

If interested, please contact
Barbara Coker on 01303 817072



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and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts



To commence September 2009:

Learning Support Assistants in AEN & Science

£14,169 - £16,064 pro rata 37 hours per week
8.30 - 4.30 Mon - Thurs 8.30 - 4.00 Fri term time + inset

We are seeking to appoint two Learning Support Assistants; one to join our successful Support & Guidance Team, to work with students who have a wide range of additional educational needs, and one to support students with Science.

Energetic and a champion of children, you will have an interest in science and experience of working with students with additional educational needs. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Further details and application forms are available on our website
www.spireacademy.com Alternatively, contact Marion Wigington on 01227 710392 or email on m.wigington@spireacademy.com to request an application pack.

Closing date: noon, Wednesday 8th July 2009.

Interview date: Wednesday 15th July 2009.

Spire Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

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CARETAKER

Riverside Primary School
St Edmund's Way
Rainham Kent

Salary £14,891-£18,937 pa
37 hrs per week, split shift, plus o/time

Required as soon as possible.

Duties include general maintenance of the buildings and grounds (including DIY), security, portering and some heavy work.

Applicants need to be aware that proposed building work and changes to the school site are likely to result in an extension of duties in the future.

Any offers of appointment are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Contact Mrs Smith, Office Manager,
tel 01634 338700 or email
office@riverside.medway.sch.uk for an application form and job specification.

CVs will not be accepted.

Applications Close: 10 July 2009

Interviews on: 17 July 2009



Charlier Construction Ltd

ESTIMATOR/SURVEYOR

Owing to a retirement an opportunity exists for a highly motivated person to join a long established building company carrying out contracts up to the value of £1,000,000. Applicants must demonstrate a good working knowledge of the industry, be able to work to deadlines and have good communication skills.

A permanent position is available for the successful applicant.

CARPENTER

As a result of an increase in our workload, a Carpenter is required for our building department. Applicants must be apprenticed trained and have a sound knowledge of their trade.

Apply in writing enclosing CV and references

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A major resource centre specialising in the care and support of adults with disabilities



Registered Nurse

Take the opportunity to nurse, where you are expected and resourced to provide:

- A person centred approach to independence, well-being and choice
- Every hour of work is stretching and fulfilling
- Nurses and therapists lead a complex service for people with physical disabilities, long term neurological and similar conditions
- Your professionalism makes a difference
- Your development is expected and supported
- You will feel like you've changed your life for the better

Strode Park Foundation not-for-profit Charity status directs all resources back into the service you run and the award-winning working environment is superb.

Salary Range £10.75 per hour to £17.04 per hour

Fully Flexible 37.5 hours per week

Holiday entitlement of 25 days

Company pension scheme

Call 01227 373292 for an informal chat with John Cotterill, Director of Care or alternatively email: recruitment@strodepark.org.uk for an application pack.

Bank Staff

Strode Park Foundation has a new opportunity for Bank staff to offer care and support to people with physical disabilities.

Great opportunity to work when you want!

We offer a variety of shifts to suit your needs.

Rates of pay from £6.17 per hour to £6.83 per hour

Interested! Then visit our website www.strodepark.org.uk for more details or alternatively email: Sandra.Wiltshire@strodepark.org.uk

Closing date for completed applications is 13th July 2009

The above post are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Disclosure being obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau.



Strode Park Foundation, Strode Park House, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NE
Tel: 01227 373292 • www.strodepark.org.uk Registered Charity Number 227794

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BE A 'PROPERTY PROFESSIONAL'

Regardless of the recession, a new European Directive now legally requires an estimated 2.5 million homes and commercial properties being rented, sold or built to have an Energy Assessment this year alone. And more 'green environmental' laws are coming!

For example next year nearly every commercial property with air-conditioning must have an Assessment before the January 2011 deadline.

Applicants are therefore required to train now as multi-skilled 'Property Professionals' to carry out commercial and air-conditioning Energy Assessments and many other roles such as Flood and Fire Risk Assessments, Energy Audits, Insulation Surveys, Property Valuations, Home Condition Reports, Public Buildings Assessments etc.

No previous experience is necessary, training to join this new growth industry can usually be taken around current job at our nationwide training centres

approved by the Government-appointed Awarding Body for the Built Environment and is subsidised. On qualifying start your own energy business, work for other Assessment Providers or be available for potential full or part-time work through our Energy Assessor Panel with earnings of £50 to £1,200 per Assessment.

Ring today for an interview and find out more about a career opportunity in this fast-expanding, new 'green' industry.

020 8335 1700



ref: HK0280

PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS

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ref: HK0260

Ring today for an interview and find out more about a career opportunity in this fast-expanding, new 'green' industry.

020 8335 1700



Deputy Manager and Residential Support Workers – Child Care

Thanet Area

Salary Range RSW -

Circa 11,620k 14,500k p.a - plus increments

Salary Range DEPUTY -

Circa 18,500k to 19,500k pa plus increments

WE are an established and developing therapeutic Residential Children's Home in East Kent.

WE are looking for colleagues who can grow and learn with us to provide exceptional quality care for children and young people.

WE are looking to increase our provision

YOU want to be a committed Residential Social Care Professional able to deal constructively with challenges set by children and young people between the ages of 8 - 18 in a care home setting.

QUALIFICATIONS: NVQ 3 or equivalent is preferable. However Training will be provided for applicants with evident potential and / or relevant experience.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEPUTIES: NVQ 3 or equivalent, NVQ4 or competent to work towards.

CONTACT Manager Lyn Gibbs on 01227 369089
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WOMEN seeking men

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'2", a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU BABY

Caring and honest lady, 25, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for a sweet, caring and respectful non-smoking man, 25-35, for love, friendship and LTR. Box 872522 **1** **2**

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11", loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **1**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756 **1**

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 **1**

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTW white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 883431 **1**

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 892265 **1** **2**

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship, Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 **1**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...

Hello I'm Andrea, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, the cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **1**

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 **1**

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children, enjoys drives and horse riding, and WLTW honest, reliable man. Box 451311 **1**

WISHFULLY YOURS

Loving female, 37, 5ft2, brown hair, slim build, looking for honest, caring male with GSOH, for friendship, leading to more. Ashford. Box 449915 **1**

CALL ME

Happy but shy girl of 37, loves all the normal things in life, seeks a mature guy, hoping for something lasting and meaningful. Bexhill-on-Sea. Box 452424 **1**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **1**

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **1**

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **1** **2**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 **1** **2**

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTW a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 **1** **2**

COSY TIMES TOGETHER

Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545 **1**

PROFESSIONAL LADY

Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744 **1**

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457 **1**

LET'S CLICK

WLTW a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446847 **1**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

LOOKING FOR LTR

Single mum, petite, 44, brown hair/eyes, looking to share my life with a nice man, a Russian man would be great! I like cinema, pubs, music. Box 451373 **1**

ALONG THE SHORE

Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings Box 451469 **1**

A SOUL MATE

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066 **1**

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 **1**

THE WIT TO WOOL!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 **1**

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 **1** **2**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 **1**

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(Calls are free; mobile rates may vary; check with your provider)

COLLECT your messages: 0906 550 4335
(Calls cost £1/min; contact your service provider for details)

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Petite, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1** **2**

A HEART FULL OF LOVE

Nice looking, genuine 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTW a genuine good natured white male, GSOH, for fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890 **1** **2**

A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Radiant, warm, witty, intelligent, attractive lady, 44, 5'6", love music, travel, restaurants, the arts, theatre, WLTW like-minded gent, 38-50 who's fun, cultured, solvent and kind. Box 434043 **1** **2**

MISS THIS MISS OUT

Good-looking blonde animal lover, 41, tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451079 **1**

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, out, going, fun loving, professional, looking for a white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 **1**

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 **1**

ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, WLTW mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451819 **1** **2**

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTW a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 **1** **2**

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Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 **1** **2**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 **1**

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 **1**

MISS THIS MISS OUT

Good-looking blonde animal lover, 41, tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451079 **1**

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, out, going, fun loving, professional, looking for a white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 **1**

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY

Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 **1**

ACTIVE TYPE

Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, WLTW mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451819 **1** **2**

BELLA ISABEL

Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTW a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 **1** **2**

COSY TIMES TOGETHER

Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545 **1**

PROFESSIONAL LADY

Fun bubbly sexy black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving, seeks charming male to have fun and enjoy life with. Box 451744 **1**

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457 **1**

LET'S CLICK

WLTW a nice guy with a similar nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446847 **1**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

LOOKING FOR LTR

Single mum, petite, 44, brown hair/eyes, looking to share my life with a nice man, a Russian man would be great! I like cinema, pubs, music. Box 451373 **1**

ALONG THE SHORE

Recently divorced woman, 43, 5ft3, slim, hard-working, fun-loving, likes life, looking for a really nice and trustworthy guy for a relationship. Hastings Box 451469 **1**

A SOUL MATE

Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind and caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066 **1**

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 **1**

THE WIT TO WOOL!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 **1**

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 **1** **2**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 **1**

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 417100 **1**

HIT TO JACKPOT

Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 **1**

SHARE LIFE

Caring woman of 52, normal, down-to-earth, open minded and loves to give, looking for an understanding and caring female to enjoy films, walks and more. Box 452463 **1**

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young-looking, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 **1**

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 415342 **1**

WE HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS!

Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448953 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 50, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

DREAMS OF YOU

Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448596 **1**

SOMETHING NEW

Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music; WLTW male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Eastbourne. Box 447662 **1**

BEING WITH YOU

Hi I'm Jenny, 61yr old widow, enjoys pub meals, countryside, the beach, cinema, seeks loving male for friendship and more. Box 453104 **1**

ONLY LOVE

Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791 **1**

NEVER TOO LATE

Hello, I'm Betty, 62, cuddly widow, 5ft5, brown hair/brown eyes, gosh and love life, seeking a like-minded gent for companionship and more. Box 452329 **1**

LOVING AND GENUINE

Female, early 60s, tall, slim, modern, young thinking & very adaptable to people, own house, loves animals, walking & eating out. Hastings. Box 440502 **1**

MEANT TO MEET...

Grounded lady of 73, looking for companionship with a similar gentleman who wants to share and enjoy all of life's pleasures. Box 453141 **1**

Women seeking women

FUN AND MAYBE MORE

Passionate female, 37, new to town, WLTW passionate, genuine companions to socialise with, go out and have some fun, then see what happens. Ashford area. Box 880564 **1**



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CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

Kent League Division One

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Whitstable 1st XI

AN UNBEATEN century from Vishaul Singh helped Sandwich Town on their way to a narrow two-wicket win against Whitstable at the weekend.

Singh crashed 115 not out to see his side over the line with just an over to spare. The home side won the toss and put the opposition in to bat at The Butts and the decision looked a good one when Craig Spanton dismissed Max Campbell (1) and Sam Denly (4) with just seven runs on the board.

Peter Eames hit 21 to steady the ship until he was run out. Craig Snell was then introduced first change and had the Oystermen reeling at 58 for 6 when he removed Nadir Rasheed for ten and Ben Trott for one.

Whitstable's Stuart Sinclair hit back for the visitors, putting on an invaluable 117-run partnership with James Mills. Sinclair went on to register an unbeaten 95 from 105 balls, but a spell from Jack Bradley saw him pick up two wickets, including Mills for a valiant 26 as Whitstable scored 183 for 8.

In reply, Sandwich also found the wicket a tough one to negotiate and slumped to 95 for 6 with Whitstable opening bowler Jason Logan in inspired form, claiming 3 for 24.

Rhys Jones managed to stick around and stay with Singh who crashed 115 not out to help steer Sandwich close to their total. However, Whitstable refused to give up and when Josh Gould picked up the wickets of Jones for 22 and James Bolt (4), the game was back in the balance. But Craig Spanton hit 16 at number nine to help Singh cross the line.

Whitstable edged out in tense low scoring affair



LOW SCORE: Whitstable's Ben Trott claimed 2 for 56 with the ball, but his efforts were in vain as Sandwich won by two wickets

SCOREBOARD

Whitstable

	Runs
Max Campbell b Spanton	1
Peter Eames run out	21
Sam Denly b Spanton	4
Nadir Rasheed ct Bradley b Snell	10
Stuart Sinclair not out	95
James Loader lbw b Spanton	3
Ben Trott b Snell	1
James Mills b Bradley	26
Josh Gould b Bradley	4
Jason Logan not out	0
Duncan Hardy did not bat	

Extras (3b 5lb 7w 3nb) 18
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 183

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	15	5	40	3
Jack Bradley	10	2	41	2
Craig Snell	15	2	53	2
Matthew van Poppel	10	1	41	0

Sandwich Town

	Runs
Craig Snell ct Gould b Trott	6
David Scoggins b Logan	4
Vishaul Singh not out	115
David Draper lbw b Logan	4
Michael Williams b Logan	0
Rhys Jones b Gould	22
James Bolt ct Hardy b Gould	4
Gavin Lawrence lbw b Trott	2
Craig Spanton run out	16
Matthew van Poppel not out	4
Jack Bradley did not bat	

Extras (10b) 10
Total (8 wickets, 49 overs) 187

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Ben Trott	15	1	56	2
Jason Logan	7	1	24	3
Duncan Hardy	7	2	16	0
Josh Gould	13	2	36	2
Max Campbell	3	0	17	0
James Loader	4	0	28	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT CRICKET PREMIER LEAGUE

St Lawrence & Highland Court 1st XI v Bickley Park 1st XI

A STERLING performance from Kent youngster Charlie Hemphrey was in vain as St Lawrence lost to Bickley Park by seven wickets.

Hemphrey rescued the home side from what could have been an embarrassingly low total, as they slipped to 107 for 8 at one stage. His 79 from 109 balls dragged them towards respectability before he was last man out.

The all-rounder then removed both Bickley openers, but the visitors got home with ease thanks to James Lincoln's 77.

St Lawrence & Highland Court

	Runs
Dominic Chambers	23
Daniel Stickels	38
Paul Dixey	0
Charlie Hemphrey	79
Lewis Jenkins	1
Sean French	0
David Smith	0
Alex Day	8
Kit Sims	0
Alistair Neale	8
Richard Keir	0
Extras	16
Total	181

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Barry Hooper	15	3	36	4
Richard Horner	6	1	28	0
James Lincoln	12	2	46	1
Phil Browning	8.4	1	36	3
Terry Howes	5	0	29	0

Bickley Park

	Runs
Paul Clinton	69
Alex Darroch	5
James Lincoln	77
Nick Oldridge	0
Chris Coulson	22
Terry Howes	0
Alex Coulson	0
Phil Browning	0
James Soulsby	0
Barry Hooper	0
Richard Horner	0
Extras	9
Total	182

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Sean French	6.4	0	38	0
Charlie Hemphrey	15	3	48	2
Alex Day	5	2	26	0
Richard Keir	4	0	20	0
Alistair Neale	11	3	26	1
David Smith	5	1	21	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Lordswood 1st XI v Canterbury 1st XI

CANTERBURY dropped to the foot of the Division One table as they slipped to a 42-run defeat against runaway leaders Lordswood.

The undefeated Lords made an excellent start, with their openers putting on 90 before Alan Pattenden became one of Ryan Minter's three victims. A target of 237 was achievable and Neil Gowers and Luke Samarasinghe patiently accumulated 86 before both were dismissed in quick succession.

The middle order followed tamely and although Tim Wren's late 34 kept Lordswood honest, he could not hold out indefinitely.

Lordswood

	Runs
David Masters	57
Alan Pattenden	30
Peter Stock	18
Chris Thompson	4
Lyndon Lockhart	52
Matt Iles	46
Effren Cruz	1
Jeremy Greaves	0
Daniel Masters	4
James Iles	0
Richard Cross	0
Extras	18
Total	236

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Justin Macvicar	2	0	10	0
Damian Minter	5	1	27	0
Ryan Minter	11	1	62	3
Tim Wren	12	1	65	1
Stuart Drakeley	8	4	12	1
Luke Samarasinghe	12	3	55	2

Canterbury

	Runs
Neil Gowers	49
Luke Samarasinghe	43
Simon Cusden	8
Russell Griffiths	5
Ryan Minter	18
John Rose	10
Justin Macvicar	13
Stuart Drakeley	1
Simon Smith	4
Damian Minter	0
Tim Wren	34
Extras	9
Total	194

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Daniel Masters	10	2	38	0
James Iles	7	2	38	0
Richard Cross	15	6	36	6
David Masters	10	0	60	3
Matt Iles	4	0	18	1
Lyndon Lockhart	2	1	4	0
Peter Stock	1	0	3	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Chestfield 1st XI v Linden Park 1st XI

CHESTFIELD remain in a precarious position third from bottom in Division Three after a 60-run defeat to promotion hopefuls Linden Park.

The visitors batted first and looked set for a huge total at one stage thanks to a second wicket partnership of 148. But Joseph Whittington and William Lock did well to restrict them to 250 from their 50 overs.

The hosts were up against it after their top order failed and despite a determined response led by Simon Buckingham, it was too little too late.

Linden Park

	Runs
John Harvey	1
Neil Stephens	77
Stuart Clarke	96
Abhijit Kale	27
Ian Broadrick	9
Dominic Lanaway	4
Rob Prastka	9
Neil Penfold	4
Brian Gasking	0
James Saunders	0
Edward Humphrey	0

Extras (4b 10lb 8w 1nb) 23
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 250

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
William Lock	0	2	24	3
Joseph Whittington	14	1	65	4
Wayne George	6	2	29	0
Aknil Rajput	4	0	29	0
Ben Croucher	8	0	47	0
Simon Buckingham	4	1	19	0
Craig Wretham	5	1	28	1

Chestfield

	Runs
Craig Wretham	23
Stephen Cox	15
Aknil Rajput	0
Craig George	0
Alister Robb	30
Simon Buckingham	61
Joseph Whittington	26
Shane Moody-Smith	18
Wayne George	2
William Lock	5
Ben Croucher	1

Extras 9
Total (all out, 45 overs) 190

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Dominic Lanaway	11	1	28	3
Edward Humphrey	3	0	23	0
Neil Penfold	5	1	17	2
John Harvey	14	0	82	4
Abhijit Kale	12	0	37	0

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Wye 1st XI v Nonington 1st XI

NONINGTON surged top of the division with a two-wicket victory in a high-scoring game against struggling Wye.

The home side belied their lowly position after opting to bat first, with Jordan Reed-Ashton, Giles Starley and Stuart Wise all making valuable contributions.

It left Nonington chasing 255 for victory. Without anyone making a big score, they relied on a succession of batsmen chipping in with steady scores. Kieron Burrett and James Anderson hit half-centuries as they got home with 18 balls to spare.

Wye

	Runs
Daniel Noden	13
Nick Brooke	39
Jordan Reed-Ashton	55
Giles Starley	42
Stuart Wise	62
Raj Mahadevaiah	3
Nick Eve	4
Wayne Edlin	0
William Elgar	2
Keith Secrett	1
Matt Barlow	0

Extras (5b 19lb 3w 6nb) 33
Total (9 wickets, 46 overs) 254

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Jason Franks	0	0	13	0
Carl Knowles	10	2	54	3
Rob Paton	8	1	32	1
Russell Stewart	10	0	43	0
James Burrett	9	0	43	0
Nick Blackman	3	0	27	1
Kieron Burrett	4	0	18	4

Nonington

	Runs
Nick Blackman	34
Jamie Burrett	1
Kieron Burrett	51
Rob Paton	13
Carl Knowles	20
James Anderson	53
Gary Coulson	40
Russell Stewart	4
Jason Franks	3
Graham Burrett	0
Clive Knight	0

Extras (22b 10lb 3w 1nb) 36
Total (8 wickets, 43.2 overs) 255

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Jordan Reed-Ashton	0	1	23	2
William Elgar	8	0	49	1
Wayne Edlin	7	0	45	2
Keith Secrett	8	1	30	0
Nick Brooke	5	0	31	2
Stuart Wise	5	0	32	1
Daniel Noden	3	0	13	0

Olympic champ Lewis goes back to school



STAR: Denise Lewis during her visit to Herne Bay High

FORMER Olympic champion Denise Lewis joined hundreds of children last week for the first East Kent Coastal Alternative Games.

Almost 300 children from six secondary schools in the area met at Herne Bay High School as part of National School Sports Week. They were specially selected for the Games as youngsters who may not normally participate in sport. Instead of the mainstream activities normally on offer at school they tried more unorthodox sports such as handball and lacrosse.

Lewis, 36, who won heptathlon gold at the Sydney Olympics, admitted it could be difficult to get some children engaged with sport but was impressed with what she saw.

She told Yourcanterbury: "I think kids want to be competitive and do something but

they're called by the games consoles, etc, all these different distractions.

"This is all about the kids having a go and making pledges to themselves. There was one girl whose pledge was to get her family to be more healthy at home. I think that's just fantastic"

One of the reasons for the big push towards greater participation is the London Olympics in three years' time. Seen as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to inspire the younger generation and reverse the trend of childhood obesity, Lewis believes it's come at a crucial time.

"It's almost if we can't do it now we're never going to", she said. "I was eight when I was first captured by the Olympic spirit and I hope in that way 2012 will be that catalyst for a lot of kids participating and think 'I can be something'."

FOOTBALL



RECRUIT: Dan Tanner is one of two Town signings

Big training turnout gives boss plenty of choice

WHITSTABLE Town manager Mark Munday believes he will not have to look any further than the players on trial at the club to find the additions the squad needs for the new season.

The new Belmont boss has made two signings since taking over, with striker Stuart Vahid and defender Dan Tanner joining the club last month.

Munday, in his first job in management, wants to add at least two more to his squad before the start of the season, but his search may be at an end. Last week the Oystermen returned to pre-season training and he was impressed to get 45 players turn up.

He said: "At this stage I would rather have too many players than not enough. There were quite a few trialists there who looked OK. Some of them had a bit of a pedigree and I was pleasantly surprised with who showed up. I had phone calls from them beforehand but you never know if they're going to be true to their word."

With James Campbell and Marcos Perona leaving for Thamesmead last month, Munday has some room in his budget for recruitment. From what he has seen already, the new players are likely to come from the pool of players already training with the squad.

He said: "I can see them hopefully coming from the group we have already had in training. We have spoken to a few of the trialists and when the games begin we can start to have a better look at them."

The club's first pre-season friendly is away to Kent League side Norton Sports on Saturday, July 18.

Elsewhere, the club are still looking to take on a manager for the club's reserve team. Anyone interested can contact the club on 01227 266012.



Pictures: ADY KERRY

INJURED: Robbie Joseph (left) is out of action and faces a few weeks on the sidelines after injuring his shoulder with overseas bowler, Wayne Parnell (right), set to take his place

Parnell to step up as Joseph left on sidelines

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

OVERSEAS bowler Wayne Parnell is set to boost the Kent bowling ranks as he returns to the side for Friday's trip to The Oval.

The South African international has signed for a five-week period after impressing in the six weeks he was with the county at the beginning of the summer. The 19-year-old left-arm quick bowler is likely to fill the gap left by fellow fast bowler Robbie Joseph, who is set for another frustrating few weeks on the sidelines after failing to shake off a shoulder injury.

The Kent fast bowler injured his shoulder while fielding in the Twenty20 Cup game

against Surrey at The Oval two weeks ago and consequently missed the County Championship win against Gloucestershire last week.

Coach Simon Willis said the club are unsure as to how long the 27-year-old will be out of action, with the championship game against Surrey looking too early for a return.

He said: "He injured the same shoulder he did during a pre-season game. Diving on the boundary at The Oval he has done some damage again. I don't think we can put a timescale on it this time, I think we will have to see where he is at the end of this week, reassess and go from there. We are unsure at the moment."

Elsewhere, left-arm spinner Rob Ferley is on the road to recovery after a knee operation and could be available to play in the next few weeks.

Willis said: "He will be in every day for treatment but he is feeling confident in the right

knee since he has had the work done. It's getting the strength around where he has had the operation and hopefully he will be back bowling in the next couple of weeks."

The club also indicated their interest in talking to Worcestershire seamer Chris Whelan about joining the county next season. The 23-year-old is out of contract at the end of this summer and Kent are believed to have put a 28-day notice of approach to speak to him. The county are also interested in talking to Leicestershire all-rounder Jim Allenby and Warwickshire seamer Naqash Tahir. It's also been reported that run machine Martin van Jaarsveld is the subject of an approach by Yorkshire.

Kent's probable 12 for The Oval: Joe Denly, Rob Key, Geraint Jones, Martin van Jaarsveld, Darren Stevens, Justin Kemp, Ryan McLaren, Wayne Parnell, James Tredwell, Simon Cook, Amjad Khan, James Hockley.

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